THE TIMES

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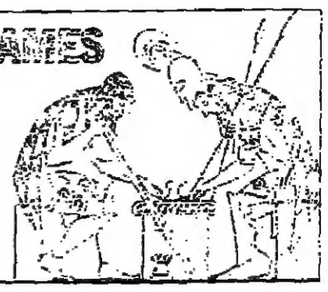

Clinton changes tactics on landmine campaign

By Tom Rhodes and Michael Evans

DENT CLINTON an- ed last night that Ameri- ill support an in- nal ban on landmines end of the year, provid- unexpected boost for mpaign supported by , Princess of Wales.

apparent reversal of was welcomed by the nment, which decided after taking office to d operational use of ersonnel landmines and troy all stocks by 2005. Clinton has now decided t America's full weight a Canadian initiative has called for an agree- to ban anti-personnel by December. More 50 countries, including n, have joined the so- Ottawa process and than a hundred are ht to be willing to sign reement. Foreign Office es said that America's vement would give "fresh us" to the campaign.

e White House an- cement comes less than a after the Princess's trip nia-Herzegovina to meet mine victims. Her visit ed to claims that she was ging in politics, but her sal of the issue has now ed the backing of the powerful political leader e world.

ry White, co-founder of Mine Survivors Net- , said that the Princess's ns had been pivotal in ng Washington to rethink rategy. "I think it was the which pushed them over dge. Her symbolic visit to nia showed that Clinton just sitting on the fence on issue. The timing was ct, August is a dead th in Washington and she d their hand."

nerica had previously fo- d its attention on the ed Nations Conference on rmament in Geneva and avoided playing a part in Ottawa process on the nds that it could not lead global ban. The biggest mine users and produc- such as China, are not of the Ottawa process.

r Clinton had also been ned by his defence chiefs that landmines remained essential in safeguarding American troops' lives in certain areas, including the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas.

But last night he made clear that he was not prepared to wait for the Geneva negotiations to grind their way to a conclusion and agreed to switch his efforts to the Canadian talks. He will now send senior officials to Geneva to discuss that decision.

The next phase of the Canadian initiative begins in Oslo next month when, according to a White House statement: "The United States will work with the other participating nations to secure an agreement that achieves our humanitarian goals while protecting our national security interests."

Mr Clinton is also seeking early Senate action to limit the use of landmines by the American military in advance of the planned Ottawa treaty.

Robert Bell of the National Security Council, who will head the American delegation to Geneva, is, however, said to be looking at ways to amend the draft treaty to allow the continued deployment of "smart" mines, which self-destruct within 48 hours, and to allow American forces to carry on using "dumb" mines on the Korean peninsula.

While he welcomed Mr Clinton's decision, Mr White of the survivors network said that America's involvement would make the Oslo negotiations much tougher. "On the one hand this is terrific news, on the other it is worrying. America wants flexibility and wants to force exceptions into the Ottawa treaty which will make it all the harder to negotiate. We must all be ready for tough talks."

Estimates show that 9,600 people are killed and 14,000 wounded each year by landmines. And a recent report said that nearly 90 per cent of the mines and booby traps used against Americans in Vietnam and Korea were either manufactured in America or made by enemy troops with captured components.

DES JENSON

A mischievous John Prescott holds up the aggressive Chinese Mitten crab that he yesterday likened to Peter Mandelson

Shell warfare on the Thames

By Nicholas Watt and Jill Sherman

JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday poked fun at Peter Mandelson's ambition to win a seat on Labour's National Executive Committee by naming an aggressive alien crab with a reputation as a predator after his ministerial colleague.

Posing for photographs on a Thames boat with Dennis, a Chinese Mitten crab in a glass jar, a beaming Mr Prescott said: "Do you know what his name is? He's called Peter."

Then, addressing the crab, actually a female, Mr Prescott said: "Do you think you'll get on the National Executive, Peter?"

Mr Prescott's gibe at Mr Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, was a light-hearted reminder of the bitter rivalry between two of the most senior members of the Government who, since the election, have worked hard at trying to present a more united front.

But earlier this month Mr Prescott was furious when Mr Mandelson tried to upstage him and suggested that they were both "minding the shop" while the Prime Minister is on holiday. Since then the two have been jockeying for the position of being in charge, a race in which Mr Mandelson has made most of the running.

Yesterday Mr Prescott could not resist having a go. First the Deputy Prime Minister, on a visit to Greenwich, blundered in on Mr Mandelson's pet project. He claimed that a decision to award a £6.1m contract to Germany for the PVC coating of the Millennium Dome was a "sad reflection on the competency" of British industry.

A hundred miles away in Coventry, Mr Mandelson was claiming that the Millennium Project was a British success story.

Although he did not, Mr Mandelson could have been excused for taking exception to Mr Prescott's gibe because the Chinese Mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) is described as an "alien predator" by environmentalists. The crab, which made its way to British waters from Asia in ships' ballast water in the early part of the century, gobbles up food more quickly than native rivals. It also has the advantage of being able to survive in both salt and fresh water. When the Thames is at low tide, the crabs burrow into the mud in search of food with their distinctive fur-covered claws.

A spokesman for the Environment Agency said: "The Chinese Mitten crab is rather aggressive. It can threaten native crabs, eels and crayfish by eating the food first."

Mr Prescott got involved with Dennis at a press conference to launch a £10 million "ecologically sensitive" flood defence scheme to protect the Millennium Dome site. The new defences are designed to create an important habitat for wildlife.

Later yesterday Mr Prescott tried to play down his remarks, making clear that they were intended in jest. He said he wished Mr Mandelson all the best in his attempt to "claw his way" onto the NEC, adding: "I hope his pincer movement goes well, because I know that under his hard shell, he has a soft heart."

Mr Mandelson appeared to take the matter in good part, saying he was "relaxed and amused at the Deputy Prime Minister's comments". He confirmed yesterday that he would stand for the NEC and criticised Ken Livingstone, the left-winger, who is seen as his clearest rival.

Mr Mandelson said: "I confirm that I am standing for the NEC in the vacancy created by Gordon Brown's decision to stand down. Unlike Ken Livingstone ... I am a strong supporter and ally of Gordon Brown."

In recent weeks Mr Mandelson has attempted to improve his appeal across the Labour party. Last Thursday he delivered an important lecture to the Fabian Society outlining plans for a new Cabinet Office unit to address the problem of social exclusion.

"It must be John Prescott's crab — it's spinning like mad"

Leading article, page 17

Major breaks silence to attack plans for cricket

By Jill Sherman and John Goodbody

JOHN MAJOR launched his first public attack on the Labour Government last night, when he rose in defence of the subject dearest to his heart: cricket.

The former Prime Minister accused ministers of "sheer political spite" in planning to exclude team games from the British Academy of Sport and urged them to reverse the police "before it makes a mockery of our nation's sporting ambitions".

His onslaught came as Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, suggested that Lottery money might be made available for a cricket academy that could be linked to the national headquarters.

He also agreed — after a hastily arranged meeting with Lord MacLaurin, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), on other options to boost finances for the game — to look at an ECB deal under which television rights for Test matches would be shared by BSkyB and the BBC.

The apparent policy shift came after an outcry over reports that cricket, rugby and football would not be included in the sporting academy — which would instead focus on Olympic sports — and alarm that subscription channels might be allowed to bid for TV rights for Test matches.

Breaking his post-election silence, Mr Major said: "The Labour Government's ill-judged decision to exclude three key national sports from the proposed academy shows how little they know or care about sport. They have excluded precisely those sports which most bring the nation together — football, rugby and cricket.

"Team sports appear to be being treated as a dangerous competitive exercise by the politically correct commissars that now run the ministry of Culture, Media and Sport. It is sheer political spite to exclude these sports.

"As cricket is thinking about the way forward and building a plan to safeguard its future Labour is intent on sabotage. The offer of future Lottery money is simply a figleaf to cover their embarrassment at excluding this sport from the academy."

Mr Major, evidently peeved that Mr Smith has hijacked his own project and stripped it of his favourite sport, also attacked Labour's plans to consider allowing Test matches to be shown on subscription channels. "Taking cricket out of the protected list of terrestial television sports could be the price of this folly — a move which would stop millions of people from watching Test cricket, many of them retired or on low incomes."

But last night the Government said it would seriously consider plans put up by the cricket authorities to split the home Test match contract, at present held by the BBC, with BSkyB. One option is to alternate the screening of Test matches and allow the BBC greater use of highlights of matches shown exclusively on BSkyB.

BSkyB, which is part owned by News International which also owns the *Times*, already carries some cricket coverage including one-day internationals and the Benson and Hedges Cup. But home Test matches are among the eight "crown jewels" of sporting events which have to be shown on terrestial television. The Government is reviewing all the listed events.

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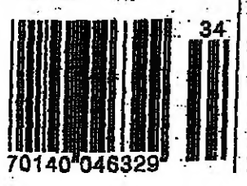


Actor dies in stage hanging

From John Carr in Athens

A BRITISH amateur actor accidentally hanged himself while playing Judas in a production of *Jesus Christ, Superstar* in a resort hotel in Greece.

According to a coroner's report, Tony Wheeler, 26, died while playing the scene in which Judas kilies himself. Suicide has been ruled out.

It appears that the rest of the cast were unaware that Mr Wheeler had died until he failed to appear backstage during a scene change at the performance on Sunday.

Doctors in the audience failed to revive him and the coroner said that he believed undue pressure on the neck was the cause of death.

Mr Wheeler had been a member of the staff amateur dramatics group at the hotel on the Khalkidhiki peninsula in northern Greece for three years.

In France, happiness is a cold beer

The Prime Minister finds time on holiday to talk to *The Times*. **Susan Bell** reports from St Martin d'Oydes

TONY BLAIR invited *The Times* into his holiday home in St Martin d'Oydes south of Toulouse yesterday for a cold beer and a chat about Franco-British relations.

Bumping into a perspiring Mr Blair as he finished playing tennis on the village court, I asked him if he would answer a few questions about his meeting later in the week with Lionel Jospin, the French socialist Prime Minister whose political fief, Cintagabelle, is less than 18 miles away.

Replying that he just needed a little time to take a shower and change, he said he would be happy to welcome me back to the house for an informal chat over a drink.

Seated on white plastic chairs at a small table, we shared a beer beneath the shady tree in the gardens of the 12th-century château belonging to the High Court judge Sir David Keene, where the Blairs are staying for a week.

Looking tanned, if a bit hot after his energetic two-hour game of tennis in the sweltering afternoon heat, Mr Blair was obviously enjoying his holiday. I asked him if there were any specific subjects he planned to discuss with M Jospin.

"I'm sure we'll go through the whole thing; relations in Europe, numerous questions of Franco-British relations, and party to party discussions," he replied. Later he quashed any rumours that he and the French leader had not hit it off particularly well in prior meetings by emphasising their good personal relationship. "He is a very decent and intelligent man," said Mr Blair.

Asked whether M Jospin's election win last May could signal a change of direction for Europe, Mr Blair said: "M Jospin's Government has given greater emphasis to jobs, employment and the social dimension of Europe, but going by the two major summits since the French election — in Amsterdam and Madrid — there has been less distance than people might have thought."

Mr Blair thought there was a great opportunity for Britain to do things in Europe, which to a certain extent was looking for Britain's leadership.

Referring to suggestions that new Labour was different from an unreformed French Socialist party, Mr Blair said that while traditions were different between the two, they shared the desire to create thriving business, social inclusion, and a commitment to tackling long-term poverty — although he underlined that each country would tackle things in different ways because of differing economies.

Mr Blair said he would not offer advice to his French counterpart during their meeting later this week. "That would be presumptuous of me, to tell other people what to do in their own country."

Mr Blair does not believe the French system, in which a centre-right president is "cohabiting" with a socialist prime minister, necessarily presents an obstacle to effective government. "The French constitution provides for cohabitation and is used to dealing with it. Other countries have similar systems. It is different from the way we do things, but people here work very hard to make it work."

As the sun started to sink over the rolling hills which surround the shattered rose brick château, Mr Blair spoke with obvious enthusiasm of his great affection for France, born during the five months

Continued on page 2, col 6

Alcopop marketing 'is a scandal'

Brewers stand accused of using drug imagery to aim drinks at the teenage dance scene, reports **Richard Ford**

BREWERS were accused yesterday of introducing alcopops as a "scandalous" ploy to revive drink sales threatened by young people's taste for Ecstasy and soft drinks at raves.

Sarah Berger, director of Drinkline, a government helpline, said companies were profiteering by aiming their products at youngsters attracted to the rave scene. "Why else have labels that glow in the dark?"

Miss Berger, a former social worker, told a conference at Leicester University: "Alcopops are part of the fightback against an increasing drug culture. Sales of alcohol are definitely under threat from drugs.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the drinks industry is now targeting the drug culture in a bid to claw back some of those lost sales. You just have to look at some of the packaging — the bright colours and their hallucinogenic images — to see that they are trying to attract people who go to dance clubs."

Hundreds of thousands of teenagers take recreational drugs, according to academic studies, with Ecstasy being the most popular on the dance scene. But many ravers shun alcohol, saying that it reduces their stamina.

Miss Berger said alcopops were not the root cause of under-age drinking, or a leading sign of moral decline among modern youth, but she condemned the big brewers, whom she said spent £200 million on promoting the drinks. 'Alcopops are a blatant example of profiteering by the drinks trade, and our apparent inability to curb promotion of alcohol products. It is nothing short of scandalous."

She told the conference that the drinks industry had only itself to blame for the hostility it had encountered since developing and marketing alcopops. "It serves the industry right. They have brought it upon themselves by their idiotic pursuit of profit. The movement of the market has been allowed to take precedence over the commonsense protection of the young."

Bass Charrington, producer of the alcopop Hooper's Hooch, said: "Miss Berger is entitled to her viewpoint, but we disagree with it. Hooper's Hooch was launched to give people an alternative when they go into pubs and clubs. People had been drinking lager and beer for hundreds of years, and there comes a point when they say, 'I don't like that. What do I drink now?' We developed Hooper's Hooch for them."

The main alcopop producers were invited to the conference, but did not turn up, nor did the industry's self-regulating body, the Portman Group, which was also invited. The conference was called to look at the development of alcopops and whether the focus on their development concealed wider problems of under-age drinking.

Figures were given to delegates showing the dramatic rise in popularity of alcopops since they first became available two years ago. Among almost one in five children aged 14 to 15, alcopops are now the favourite drink: two years ago, they were not even mentioned.

The percentage of children of 14 and 15 admitting to having been drunk rose from 60.1 to 68.1. Alisdair Forsyth, a researcher at the Centre of Drug Misuse at the University of Glasgow, who interviewed 1,308 children in Dundee, said: "More kids are drinking, more kids are getting drunk, and more kids are drinking heavily."

He said it was unclear whether alcopops were to blame for the rise in drunkenness among young teenagers, as white cider and vodka were the drinks they admitted consuming to get drunk.

His study found that, in November 1994, the most popular alcoholic drink among young children was white cider, which 27.3 per cent said they drank, compared with 16.6 per cent for premium lager, 13.8 per cent for vodka and 13.1 per cent for beer. Alcopops did not feature.

But by January 1997, 18.8 per cent said alcopops were their favourite drink, compared with 17.3 per cent for beer, 11.4 per cent for premium lager and 11.7 per cent for white cider.

Blair breaks with linguistic tradition of Downing St

By Denis Taylor

WHEN Churchill addressed a crowd in post-war Strasbourg he warned his highly appreciative audience: "Watch out, I am going to speak French!" His successors at No 10 have tended to avoid airing any linguistic knowledge, until the advent of Tony Blair.

The late Harold Wilson was probably on safe ground by dropping the occasional Russian word into a speech to Soviet leaders. But enough Britons remembered enough school French to have a fit of merriment on hearing Edward Heath's "Broadstairs" French. If the effort came from a less expected quarter, as when Margaret Thatcher made some remarks in French while she and the late President Mitterrand met for the signing of the Channel Tunnel treaty in 1986, the impact could perhaps be more effective.

Sir Anthony Eden was an exception to the rule that British political leaders did not seriously meddle with foreign tongues.

The real linguists among parliamentarians have tended not to reach the highest office in the party or land. Lord Healey, the former Chancellor, speaks Italian and German as well as French. Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Foreign Secretary, has fluent French and Italian, and studied Chinese during his diplomatic career.

Enoch Powell knows a exceptional number of European and Asian languages. One eminent Conservative who only briefly held ministerial office, the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean, spoke Russian and Serbo-Croat as well as French, German and Italian.

French, of course, used to be the language of international diplomacy. Disraeli was gearing himself to address the 1878 Congress of Berlin in his less than satisfactory French. In stepped a Sir Humphrey of the day to persuade him that the other delegates would be deeply disappointed if they were deprived of hearing such a master of English speak to them in his own tongue.

CHRISTOPHE ENA / AP

Tony Blair chats to a village shopkeeper during a stroll with his family yesterday

Beer

Continued from page 1

he spent as a 22-year-old working in a Paris bar and later at the Groupe des Assurances Nationales, where he said he helped out in the office "distributing patisseries and teaching people English.

"I had a ball for five months," he said. "I went out every night. If you've ever lived in Paris it's hard not to love France. It's a great country with beautiful countryside and I am very fond of the people. We always get such a warm and friendly welcome here.

"There are so many great things to see and obviously the culture, the history, literature and art are of great importance. France is one of the great European nations, and will obviously be very important in shaping the future of the European Union."

Mr Blair seemed surprised by the amount of French press interest in his stay. When I told him how delighted people were by his open and friendly approach, he lamented the image of Britons overseas.

"It's a great shame that there seems to be a tendency for people abroad to see the British as pompous and stuck-up, which is quite simply not true of most British people. Anyway, when you've worked in a Parisian bar, there's not much pomposity left at the end of the day."

Mr Blair, who speaks fluent French, arrived with his family at the weekend for an eight-day stay.

Loyalists take lessons in winning sympathy

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

ULSTER Loyalists are attending media classes to learn how to attract public sympathy with tales of oppression and hardship. The Ulster Unionist Party and the Orange Order are being taught nationalist strategies of story-telling and personalising the anguish suffered by Protestants since the Troubles began in 1969.

They are being told that story-telling is more effective on national and international television than a dogged debate about issues and rights. Eoghan Harris, a pro-Unionist media consultant from the Irish Republic, who is one of the principal teachers, said: "Irish people are very good at telling the tale, and Sinn Fein uses that to great advantage. Unionists feel uncomfortable with that kind of thing, preferring to talk about establishment things and issues. They may be the facts of the situation, but they have no effect on the world's comprehension."

Mr Harris, who grew up among nationalists in Cork but is now fervently supportive of the Unionists, is giving the training free of charge. A former journalist in RTE, the Irish state broadcaster, he has advised Mary Robinson, the Irish president, and John Bruton, the former Prime Minister, on media skills. He is in regular contact with David Trimble, leader of the UUP, and Robert Saulters, leader of the Orange Order.

Earlier this year, Mr Harris held a one-day session with the Orange Order as they prepared for the July marches. Ruth Dudley Edwards, a Roman Catholic pro-Unionist columnist and author living in London, and Sean O'Callaghan, a former IRA member, have been working with various sections of the Order to explain nationalist and republican thinking.

☐ Ken Maginnis, the UUP security spokesman, accused Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, last night of turning a blind eye to the murder of two RUC officers in Lurgan in June and to Sinn Fein's refusal to countenance IRA disarmament, and telling "downright lies" in her determination to include Sinn Fein in next month's peace negotiations.

Jaguar hopes to build a new small car in Britain

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

JAGUAR is planning to build a new small car that could cost as little as £15,000. Executives are looking for a £400 million investment so that it could be produced in Britain.

The car would change the company's image as a manufacturer of luxurious and expensive cars to that of a competitor with BMW's successful 3-series, a model that has carved a niche among rising young executives.

The British operation will have to compete with sites abroad to build a factory big enough to make more than 100,000 cars a year, employing thousands more workers, and be ready to launch the new model in about four years.

America is the likely favourite, as Jaguar sells around half its cars there and is also owned by Ford in Detroit. Mercedes-Benz and BMW have both opened plants in America in the past year, cashing in on low investment costs, attractive grants and ready access to the world's biggest car market.

Huge improvements in productivity and reliability have already convinced Ford bosses in America that Jaguar should make a new mid-range car, codenamed the X200, at Castle Bromwich in Birmingham. That model will be ready by 1999, the factory turning out around 100,000 cars a year. The new model would raise total production to more than 250,000 cars-a-year, almost as many as Vauxhall.

Nick Scheele, Jaguar's chairman, said last night: "We have started a feasibility study because we believe that people want a small Jaguar which has all the cachet and quality of the bigger cars we produce. Our first studies prove that the idea is practical and could be viable. Now we have to test that further and ensure that this is a car we can build in Britain."

Ford has has poured money into Jaguar to good effect: after a period in the doldrums, the company's modern saloons and the new XK8 sports car have been voted by juries in America and Italy as among the most beautiful in the world while reliability studies place them among the best from Germany and Japan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Camelot fails to halt rival to lottery

Camelot, the National Lottery operator, yesterday failed to block a rival numbers game run by Britain's three biggest bookmakers. It also failed to have the estimated £650,000 costs of its private action paid for by the taxpayer. Ronald Bartle, stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street, London, said Camelot's attempts to halt the fixed odds numbers game, 49, was centred around its own commercial interest and was not a matter for public funding.

Camelot had brought a private criminal action against Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral Racing in a bid to stop their games, in which customers bet on six numbers to be drawn. They argued that the 49 games effectively operated as a lottery, contravened the 1976 Lotteries and Amusements Act and were illegal. However, Mr Bartle ruled that the bookmakers's games constituted a fixed-odds bet, which meant they differed from a lottery. Camelot is to appeal.

Old Vic closure fear

The future of the Old Vic theatre was cast into doubt yesterday as Sir Cameron Mackintosh, the impresario, and the Royal Shakespeare Company ruled themselves out as buyers. The Canadian owner Ed Mirvish and his son David are selling the London playhouse for £7.5 million after spending £2.5 million restoring it. Sir Peter Hall's company has been told to vacate the theatre by December 6.

MI5 to study Israeli file

Israeli security agencies have been asked to provide MI5 with any evidence of Palestinian terrorist organisations operating from London. There were suggestions of a London link after claims by the Hamas terrorist group that it was behind last month's Jerusalem suicide bombings, in which 16 people died and 150 injured. The Foreign Office said any evidence would be thoroughly investigated.

'Braveheart' attacker held

A youth who attacked an English schoolboy because of his accent after watching the film *Braveheart*, and who had stolen £500 from his stepmother and a motorcycle to joyride, was detained for four months yesterday. Paul Rennie, 17, had kicked the terrified 15-year-old in the head after shouting "Freedom", the battlecry of his hero William Wallace.

Falklands challenge

A Falklands veteran won the right to challenge in the High Court the Army's refusal to consider his petition to have assault convictions and a two-year prison sentence overturned after the European Court of Human Rights condemned his court martial as unfair in February. Alex Findlay, 36, of Windsor, a former Scots Guard, was said to have been suffering stress when he ran amok.

Bus crash averts injury

A bus driver deliberately crashed his vehicle after its brakes failed as it headed for a crowded promenade in Bournemouth yesterday. The driver headed for a 3ft concrete bollard and smashed into it to avoid injuring anyone else. That slowed the bus but it bounced off the wall, so he then aimed his vehicle into the promenade wall. No one was injured, but the driver is being treated for shock.

Checks on Saudi nurses

Saudi Arabia has agreed to allow an independent British doctor to examine the two nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague. Relatives of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan have become increasingly concerned about their health during their long captivity. They are charged with murdering Yvonne Gilford, an Australian nurse, at the King Fahd medical complex in Dhahran.

Boat owners rescue girl

Andy Barnard and Chris Batson, two passing boat owners who saved the life of a girl badly injured by an out-of-control inflatable boat, were described as heroes by her parents. Michelle Bacon, 15, suffered multiple gashes to her face and neck after she was flung into the water and struck by the speeding inflatable's propeller after it hit an underwater obstruction at Exmouth in Devon.

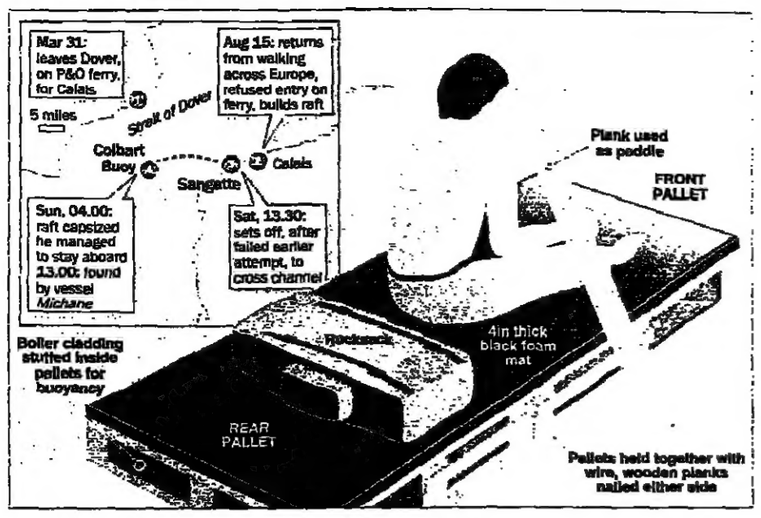
BP sues Greenpeace

BP last night took legal action against Greenpeace, seeking £1,500,000 damages for the environmental group's occupation of the Stenna Dee oil rig. If successful, the action would bankrupt Greenpeace, a spokeswoman said. Four Greenpeace protesters, named in the summons, occupied the rig off the Shetland Islands for more than a week, before being evicted on Sunday by police.

Fake gun 'hero' fined

Milan Brezina, a £33,000-a-year shop manager, was fined £500 for pointing a fake gun at two shoplifters stealing £134 worth of chocolate from the Lidl store in Gateshead. But when police arrived the "hero" was arrested. In Germany, where Mr Brezina, 33, worked before, shop managers are expected to tackle thieves. He has been sacked and has found another job in Germany.

Up the Channel without a paddle



I had no choice and no regrets, says failed job-hunter who tried to come home to Britain by makeshift raft. **Stephen Farrell** reports

Some call him lucky: no job, a long walk and a Channel rescue, but Lawrance Tervit was looking across the water from Britain yesterday

THE tide of fortune turned a little yesterday for a penniless graduate who tried to cross the Channel on a makeshift raft after a failed job hunt across the length of Europe. Lawrance Tervit lost almost everything, including his paddle and four front teeth, in a collision with an oil tanker, but French coastguards were probably the first people in a long time to describe him as lucky.

Crazy, perhaps, but very lucky just to be alive.

Back in Britain last night via Le Shuttle, Mr Tervit looked back on a trip in which he had already had to walk most of the way from Poland before his Channel rescue, and said: "I don't regret it. If it hadn't been for that ship tipping me over, I would have made it."

The former Army corporal, 46, was totally unqualified for his attempted voyage at thwe weekend. He has never had a sailing lesson and he has been on a yacht just once. His mature degree is in social policy.

But he insisted that he had no choice in his desperation to return home after his four-month search for work. Unable to afford to board a Calais to Dover ferry, or to persuade the ferry company to make a reverse-charges call to his home, the father-of-four from Stoneyburn, West Lothian, trudged a few miles further down the French coast to Sangatte.

There he fashioned a raft from materials lying by the side of the road, including two storage pallets, two planks, plastic cladding and a 4in sheet of black foam rubber.

Watched by an astonished crowd, he carried out a one-hour sea trial before taking advice on tides and pushing out on his maiden voyage at 2.30pm on Saturday, in the world's busiest shipping lane.

Asleep after 12 hours of constant paddling, he woke shortly after midnight on Sunday morning to the roar of an engine: "I heard thud, thud, thud, looked up and saw the bow of this enormous great ship heading straight for me.

"I tried to push away as fast as I could from the sharp end, but the bow wave flipped me over and I went under. I thought I was a goner. The wave actually pushed me away from the metal, but I thought I was going to go into the propellers. All I could think about was my kids. It was damn close."

Disorientated under water, he knocked out his front four teeth on a solid object and surfaced to see the ship receding and his raft still floating — upside down, but intact. He rescued a plastic bag containing his boots and passport, but could not reach the rucksack holding his food, driving licence and pictures of his children.

Hauling himself back onto the raft, he was carried backward and forward by the tides, in and out of the shipping lanes. Hampered by the lack of a paddle and the nails protruding from the bottom, he paddled with his hands and shouted for help.

He said: "I didn't have a compass or anything like that. It was pitch black and I was freezing and soaking wet. By the time it became light again, I was absolutely shattered and thinking I should never have done it.

"I thought I wasn't going to make it. I could hear the foghorns of ships near by and tried hailing them but it was foggy and they couldn't see me."

He was rescued 2½ hours after his voyage had begun, when two French sailors noticed him asleep on his upturned vessel in mid-Channel, 15 kilometers from the French shore. Exhausted, he had fallen asleep again around noon, to be woken by the sound of the French yacht *Michane*, which sighted him near the Colbart Buoy.

Taken aboard and given coffee and biscuits, he was asked by the mystified two-man crew what he was doing: "I said I was trying to cross the Channel and they laughed a bit at that.

"When the French rescue vessel came half an hour later, they laughed too. So did the nurses at the hospital. The man who had given me the advice about tidal movements had called me a crazy man but I didn't have any option. I had no money and the ferry company wouldn't let me make a reverse-charge call home. What else could I do? Desperate times call for desperate measures."

After discharging himself from Calais Hospital yesterday, he dismissed the episode as simply the final stage of an arduous trek. Increasingly rootless after the break-up of his marriage and three years unemployment after being unable to capitalise on his degree, he said he left Britain on March 31 intending to find a job in East Germany. When hitching proved unsuccessful, he walked from Calais to Belgium, then through Germany, sleeping rough in woods and fields in a sleeping bag on a plastic sheet.

Finally reaching Poland, he stayed for one day before reversing his tracks and trudging back to Calais, arriving with just 43p in German currency, 5 Belgian francs and one French franc. After *The Times* brought him home to his brother's house in Portsmouth yesterday, he said: "It's put me off Europe, but not boats. Not well-constructed ones, anyway."

Yvan Guiton, assistant chairman of the Coastguard at Cap Gris Nez, said: "What he did was very, very dangerous. The English Channel at that point is the busiest route in the maritime world, with ships crossing from West to East and North to South. He could have been hit by a supertanker and no-one would have even known he was there. When we found him he was in very poor condition, dehydrated and very weak. I do not know if he is mad, but he is very lucky."

Banker survives case of the five-hour lunch

By Adrian Lee

A BANK chief who was allegedly so drunk that he slurred his words in front of a client and regularly took lunch breaks of several hours was unfairly dismissed from his £89,000-a-year job, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday. Graham McMahon's behaviour when introduced to the important Muslim customer was said to have been so embarrassing that one colleague left the dealing room.

Mr McMahon, 45, was sacked as head of the treasury department at the Gulf International Bank in December 1996. But the London tribunal decided, after ten minutes' deliberation, that correct disciplinary procedures had not been followed.

Mr McMahon, who admitted asking a colleague to cover while he took a five-hour lunch, told the hearing that long breaks were the norm in the banking industry. The day after the incident involving the customer, he admitted being away from his desk all afternoon, but said: "As much as I hate to say it, it was a regular occurrence, not just with myself but with other members of the dealing room staff. If you are out with clients it is a whole different ball game to just being out partying."

Mr McMahon, of Sevenoaks, Kent, now works for a bank in Geneva. Before his dismissal he was earning about £89,000 a year, with bonuses that could be worth more than two months' salary.

He denied being drunk in front of the bank's best customer. Steven Moulder, who now holds Mr McMahon's former post, described the incident, saying: "Graham appeared very drunk. He made embarrassing comments, vastly overselling the bank." The next day he left for lunch at 11.30, ordering a junior to say that he had not gone out until 1pm. Andrew Pocock, the branch manager, said: "He had shown by his behaviour he couldn't be trusted to be truthful. The senior management in Bahrain thought he should be dismissed to avoid exposing the bank to any unacceptable risks."

Richard Hemmings, the tribunal chairman, said the bank had not conducted a proper inquiry, so the tribunal did not have to decide if the allegations were true.

Afterwards Mr McMahon said: "I feel vindicated. If somebody was out with a client and it got a bit protracted you can't say to them, 'I have got to be back at work, it's three o'clock.' If the client wants to be entertained, he has to be entertained."

Kitten was 'cooked' in microwave

By Russell Jenkins

A MAN put a kitten into a microwave oven and turned it on after he had unsuccessfully tried to chat up the animal's owner, a court was told.

Ian Graham, prosecuting for the RSPCA at Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear, yesterday said: "The effect was death by torture. Unable to escape, the cat was trapped and its internal organs were gradually cooked."

Brendan Blennerhassett, 24, of Luton, Bedfordshire, was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering and jailed for six months.

Mr Graham said he put the 12-week-old kitten, Jasper, in the microwave at a late-night party in Houghton-le-Spring last August. Jasper's owner, Vicky Allen, 20, said she discovered him after hearing him banging his head on the side of the oven in agony.

Camilla 'laughs off troubles'

By Emma Wilkins

Patti Palmer-Tomkinson has talked to *The New Yorker* about her friend Camilla Parker Bowles

CAMILLA Parker Bowles relies on her sense of humour to cope with the strain of her relationship with the Prince of Wales, according to a close friend.

Patti Palmer-Tomkinson, who has been friends with the pair for more than 20 years, said: "It's hard being compared with a goddess, but she always sees the funny side.

"'Thirteen double chins as usual, and me with my head in my handbag,'" she says when they print another frightful picture of her," Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson told the *New Yorker* magazine, in an extremely rare move.

After a photograph appeared under the headline "Thighgrove", Mrs Parker Bowles fell about laughing, according to another friend.

When it was said that Diana, Princess of Wales, had nicknamed her "The Rottweiler", she began answering the telephone with "Hello, Rottweiler here!" the article says.

The article, by the journalist Allison Pearson, says that while the Prince is concerned about Mrs Parker Bowles's safety and deeply in love, he has no immediate plans to formalise the relationship with marriage.

"I think he would just love the world not to be mean about her," Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson says. "It's a very courtly kind of love — a kind of chivalry. The Prince worries like mad about her.

"He says 'There's no such thing as getting it right in my position — if I left her, they'd say it was cruel and they'd be right.' He longs to do more for her and give her something of what he has." Mrs Parker Bowles does not want to trouble the Prince with her run-ins with photographers, Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson said.

"Camilla rings me from the car when the photographers are chasing her and she tells us all the dreadful things that have happened, but she never tells the Prince of Wales.

"Camilla says, 'Please don't let him know about this, he'll be so upset and worried.' And I say I can't bear his not knowing and she says 'Please don't.' It's completely unselfish — maybe the way one loves a child."

The suggestion that Mrs Parker Bowles might one day become Queen was met with "You must be joking!" according to a friend. Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson said: "She's a very private person — I can't see her cutting ribbons. I've never heard them mention marriage. While they've got each other in private it's their romance, it belongs to them."

Landlord and gasman blamed for student's death are fined

By Russell Jenkins

A LANDLORD and gas fitter blamed for the death of an English literature student at Durham University escaped with fines yesterday, although a judge said he would have sent them to prison if he had the power.

Anne Brennan, 19, died two years ago in bed at her digs in the city after breathing in carbon monoxide fumes leaking from a faulty boiler.

Judge Denis Orde previously described the house as a "veritable death trap" for the eight student occupants and a coroner recorded a verdict of unlawful killing. However, the two men could only be fined under the charges brought against them by the Health and Safety Executive.

Graham Williams, 56, of Durham, was fined £10,000 after admitting failing to ensure the boiler was properly maintained and failing to ensure the appliance was checked by an approved engineer. Edgar Maddison, the gas engineer, also of Durham, admitted a charge of failing to provide proper ventilation. He was fined £4,000. Both men were ordered to pay £2,000 in costs.

Judge Orde, passing sentence at Newcastle Crown Court, expressed his concern for the safety of students across the country and suggested that universities recommend only landlords who can prove the safety of their heating installations.

He told the two men: "If I had the power to send you to prison today that is the course I would take."

John Evans, for the prosecution, said that Ms Brennan had lain undiscovered in a ground-floor bedroom while a friend was taken to hospital after being overcome in the former bed-and-breakfast guesthouse. She died in her bed after the fumes seeped through a crack in the floorboards in her room.

Anne Brennan: CO gas seeped through floor

Other student residents told how they suffered nausea, dizziness and flu-like symptoms after they moved into the house in September 1995.

Last year an inquest in Durham was told how the boiler had twice been condemned and closed down by technicians, only to be discovered up and running later.

Health and Safety officials said that Williams, who bought the property in 1989, had ignored two prohibition notices and had ignored other advice on ventilation in the property where Anne died in October 1995.

In sentencing, Judge Orde told the men that the students in that house were paying rent to live in a veritable death trap, a "timebomb waiting to explode".

He told Maddison that his handiwork was a recipe for disaster but added that the landlord should take the lion's share of the blame. He told Williams: "Had you ensured that boiler was serviced on an annual basis that girl would not have lost her life. I can only assume you did not take this course because of penny pinching. If that is so it has cost this young girl her life."

Outside the court the dead girl's parents, Hugh Brennan, 60, and his wife Margaret, 59, spoke of their anger and frustration at a judicial system that allowed the men to escape charges for manslaughter which may have attracted a jail sentence.

Mr Brennan, a retired teacher, said: "Those two men were responsible for Anne's death and they should have been charged accordingly. We wanted them both charged with manslaughter but the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to press charges against them.

"It has been up to the Health and Safety Executive to get them to court at all and they are escaping with a fine. How can they be fined for causing the death of a girl with her life in front of her?"

Mrs Brennan, said: "Anne was a lovely, bubbly, lively girl. She loved life and had a great gift for mixing with people. Everyone who met her felt her genuine warmth and affection. She came to stay with us on the Tuesday before she died and her last words to me were, 'I love you mam, take care of yourself'."

The Health and Safety Commission launched a television advertising campaign last October to highlight the problem of faulty gas installations. The commission believes that each year 30 people die from gas-related carbon monoxide poisoning.

New regulations place the legal onus on landlords to give copies of records confirming that annual safety checks of gas appliances and flues in rented accommodation are carried out.

ROBIN MAYES

The condemned bridge that used to connect Eel Pie Islanders to the north bank of the Thames at Twickenham, southwest London

A right old mash at Eel Pie Island

1120 stranded people are dependent on a ferryman with a 14ft punt, writes **Arthur Leathley**

MORE than 100 residents perched on an island in the middle of the Thames will be cut off today when their only bridge is closed.

Citizens of Eel Pie Island will be forced to rely on a ferryman for the short trip to the mainland after a protracted dispute with British Gas.

The tiny island at Twickenham, south-west London, which featured in Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby*, has relied for 40 years on the slender foot bridge to link its 120 inhabitants with the outside world.

However, when workmen inadvertently drilled holes through the bridge reinforcing rods 10 years ago, the structure became increasingly unsafe.

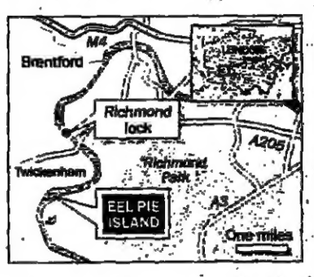
As a result no more than three people were allowed on the 40-yard long bridge at a time, as engineers feared that even the weight of an average family could prove too great a strain.

British Gas accepted responsibility for the sub-contractors' error when gas was piped to the island. But despite a vigorous campaign by residents, it has taken no action towards building a replacement bridge.

With the closure of the bridge, an emergency ferry service is being introduced today to transport the islanders across to Twickenham.

Already the residents have become increasingly dependent on friendly boat owners to ship across heavy goods because the bridge has become increasingly shaky.

One of the island's most celebrated residents is Trevor Baylis, inventor of the clockwork radio that has revolutionised life across Africa, and he has become ondof the leading voices in a vociferous campaign against the British Gas delays. "There's no question that they have been negligent in drilling holes that have made our bridge unsound. If I drilled holes in the British Gas chairman's Rolls Royce, he'd be right to sue me. All we are doing is the same."



The residents' association estimate that there are 1,000 pedestrian journeys a day over the bridge, which will create something of a headache for the ferryman who can carry only six people on a 14ft punt.

Ted Leppard, whose boat servicing company on the island, Eel Pie Island Slipways, will run the on-call ferry service, said: "There is no sense in this. It is going to cost a fortune to keep a service going for three or four months while a new temporary bridge is built."

One resident who will be more familiar with ferry journeys is 88-year-old Gladys Heath, who used to take the ferry before the bridge was built in 1956. "But obviously I was a lot younger then and I could scamper up the steps.

"Now it is going to be very difficult and we are all going to have to pull together and help each other with shopping and other everyday chores."

A spokesman for Transco, the gas pipeline operator which has taken over responsibility for the issue since the demerger of British Gas, said: "We have offered to pay £206,000 towards the repair costs which is the vast majority of the cost. We are still in discussion with residents over payment for the ferry."

High tides put South Coast homes on full flood alert

By Nick Nuttall

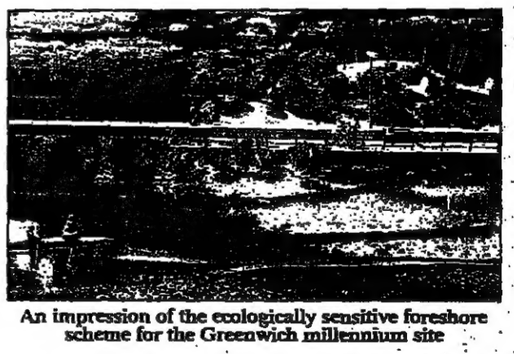
THOUSANDS of homes in the South and South-East have been issued with flood alerts. The Environment Agency fears that a combination of the movements of the Sun and Moon and the weather could trigger exceptionally high tides around parts of the British coast.

The agency is writing to more than 140,000 owners of vulnerable properties in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to advise them on how they can get up-to-the-minute information via services such as Teletext.

Potentially high tides could hit the region from today through to Friday. But homeowners are also being told to brace themselves from September 17 to September 20, when the agency predicts the tides could be among the fourth largest for 40 years.

Gary Lane, regional water manager for the agency, said yesterday: "While much depends on the weather conditions at the time, the predicted high tides could be a testing time for us all."

The agency currently spends £210 million, or 40 per cent of its budget, on flood and sea defences. It is much more than in the days of the great flood of 1953 but areas remain vulnerable to flooding when certain factors come together.



An impression of the ecologically sensitive foreshore scheme for the Greenwich millennium site

David Wilkes, the flood defence manager who runs the Thames barrier, said yesterday that wind speeds and weather conditions in the Atlantic could funnel water up around the top of Scotland and down through the North Sea towards the Straits of Dover.

"You get this huge volume of water pouring into the North Sea and as the tide comes in and out you can get this water welling up against itself." The effect could add four metres to water levels.

The South-East is also tilting into the sea by about a millimetre a year, enhancing the impact of the weather and the gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun.

The threats to the South Coast came as the Environment Agency, English Partnerships and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, launched an ecologically friendly flood defence system for the Millennium site at Greenwich. It is hoped the scheme will become a blueprint for river flood defences.

For well over a century the style of flood defence walls along the Thames have been sheer walls of concrete or metal piles, described by Mr Prescott yesterday as an "environmental mess".

Under the new £8 million scheme, about 2,400 metres of bank around the west, east and tip of the Greenwich peninsula, is being re-engineered to help wildlife.

The existing flood defences would be cut down on the tip of the peninsula and the wall taken back 10 metres back to make a walkway and cycle route. The foreshore would then be restored.

☐ Michelle Duke, 21, of Tickhill, near Doncaster, was forced to swim for her life when her car was suddenly submerged under rainwater as floods struck South Yorkshire. She drove her car into what she believed was a puddle under a railway bridge near Maltby only to discover it was 5ft deep.

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Fruit prices rise after crop fails

Bad weather has led to a shortage of peaches, reports **Michael Hornsby**

A DISASTROUS season for Mediterranean fruit growers, hit first by frost and then by gales, has reduced the crop by up to 60 per cent in places and will increase prices across Europe.

Prices of fresh and tinned fruit are forecast to rise by up to 30 per cent, though British shoppers will be protected to some extent by the strength of sterling. Italy, normally the source of more than 35 per cent of peaches and nectarines sold in Britain, suffered especially badly with frost in April, then gales in June.

"We have been been having problems and have had to source our peaches and nectarines from elsewhere to make up for the Italian shortfall", a Safeway spokeswoman said. "This has put prices up."

Nectarines are selling for 25p each in Safeway, compared with 19p this time last year. Peaches are holding their price individually at 25p each, but a punnet of ten now costs £1.99 compared with only £1.29 a year ago.

Sainsbury's said nectarines were 29p each, up from from 25p last year, while the price of peaches, at 29p each, had not changed. "We are having to pay more for these fruit this year", a spokeswoman said, "but we are trying to hold the price down."

Walter Zanre, managing director of Mediterranean Growers, the UK subsidiary of Conserve Italia, Europe's biggest fruit processor with a £400 million turnover, said: "The supply of fruit for processing from Italy is about 60 per cent short of what we need. Our production costs have gone up by 30 per cent, reflecting the higher prices we are having to pay farmers."

Tony Vince, a journalist with *Food News*, said: "The shortage will probably be felt mainly in markets such as Germany, which is a heavy importer and currently has a week currency."

Last year the Italian pear crop amounted to 1.1 million tonnes, out of a European Union total of 2.6 m. This year the EU pear harvest is not expected to exceed 2 m tonnes.

Harbour: cried in court

Woman 'accused soldier for money'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

A WOMAN tourist allegedly attacked by five British soldiers in Cyprus broke down in tears yesterday when a defence lawyer suggested that she was prepared to see an innocent man jailed to make money from a compensation claim.

For almost two hours, Claire Harbour, 22, had been cross-examined by a lawyer defending Roger Bell, one of four British soldiers on trial accused of attacking a group of English tourists outside a nightclub in Ayia Napa. Tassos Katsikides insisted it was Ms Harbour and her boyfriend Barry Ford who had assaulted Mr Bell outside the *nightclub on August 2.* Mr Katsikides suggested they had been drinking heavily.

Mr Katsikides claimed that Miss Harbour was worried only about the £25,000 damages she was claiming. Mr Ford, who needed 22 stitches in face and head wounds, and Shane Bell, 23, a friend whose jaw was broken in the incident, are claiming similar amounts. Miss Harbour denied Mr Katsikides's allegation.

In a separate civil action, Ms Harbour and the others have each filed for £29,000 in damages and compensation from Mr Bell, Steven Wolstencroft, 26, Steven Girvan and Tim Carter, both *20, who are all serving with* the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment. The trial continues.

A fifth soldier who was arrested four days after the others will be tried separately.

Remains of 8th century palace found on banks of Thames

Timbers at Chelsea could be those of the fortified home of King Offa of Mercia, **Nick Nuttall** reports

THE remains of an Anglo-Saxon palace, which could be *that of the powerful Mercian* ruler Offa, have been discovered on the banks of the Thames.

Archaeologists found the wooden remains on the *foreshore* at Chelsea on a site now used as a mooring point for houseboats. Rachel Hill of the Environment Agency, which is funding the excavations, said that English Heritage had carbon-dated the timbers to the 8th century.

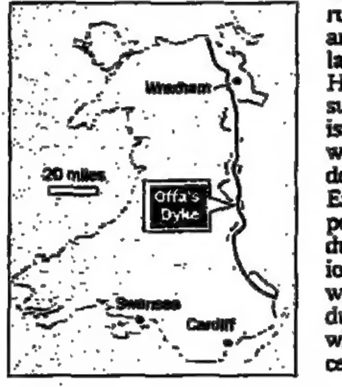
"We knew the timbers were old. There is documentary *evidence that Offa had a* palace around here and the dates just tie in," she said yesterday.

The discovery follows a series of other finds by the agency, including what is claimed to have been the jetty on the Thames where Sir Walter Raleigh laid down his cloak for Queen Elizabeth I.

However, the remains found at Chelsea are presenting the researchers with a serious conservation problem. Dr Hill said that the timbers' exposure meant that they were in danger of drying out and decaying. But under current laws they had no power to put a preservation order on them. The problem applies to all finds being made under the three-year Thames Archaeological Survey, ranging from Bronze Age and Tudor jetties to medieval fish traps. The archaeologists are trying to negotiate with the houseboat owners so that the boats are not moved on the low tide, which might damage the relics before the site has been fully excavated.

Sam Newton, an archaeologist and lecturer at the University of East Anglia, and authority on Beowulf, the Anglo-Saxon poem, said: "Offa was high King of all England, and London was an important place at that time. It is a fair presumption he had a palace there."

The find, made by the agency, University College London, English Heritage *and the Museum of London,* could be one of the most spectacular from this period. Remains of what is believed to be a royal palace from the first half of the seventh century have already been unearthed at Yeavering, Northumberland, and an important building from the sixth to the seventh century period found at Cowdrey's Down, Hampshire. But the discovery at Chelsea, made possible because it is one of the few areas left along the Thames in central London which has not been *built* over for flood defences, could rank as the most important.



Dr Hill *said they were still* busily documenting the finds, but they had found "50 metres of stakes, which were the line of defence, with the palace behind this".

Heinrich Härke, of the archaeology department at Reading University and an expert on the Anglo-Saxon *period, said it was likely that* the main palace would be about 27 metres long, built of timber and resembling a large barn. It was possible that there would have been a separate wing for women. "All the social life would go on around the fire. They would curl up and sleep around the fire," he said.

The discovery could shed new light on Offa, who *ruledfrom AD 757 to AD 787* and was overlord of all England south of the Humber. He died in AD 796. The best surviving tribute to his power is Offa's Dyke, the earthworks along the Welsh border. During his reign, England achieved the greatest political unity that was seen during the Anglo-Saxon period. Dr Härke said that Offa was also responsible for introducing the silver penny, which boosted trade in the 8th century.

PRIVATE COLLECTION/BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY, LONDON

Offa, King of Mercia, ruled all England south of the Humber from AD 757 to AD 787

Rape suspect's lawyer blames identity video

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SUSPECTED rapist was picked out in an identity parade only because everyone else in the video line-up was wearing *make-up* and a *wig, a court was told yesterday.* Andrew Whyte, a Rastafarian with long dreadlocks, was the only man with his own hair.

Police had been unable to find anyone who looked like Mr Whyte and so had filmed individually a dozen men wearing hairpieces and make-up.

Mr Whyte, 34, of Gloucester, who denies two charges of rape, one of indecent assault and one of false *imprisonment,* had been *picked* out from a five-minute identity video by his two alleged victims, Sally O'Neill, for the defence, told Bristol Crown Court. But, she said, it was obvious which one of the 12 was the defendant. "The people on that video were all wearing wigs — there isn't one single person there who had a *natural head of dreadlocks apart from the* defendant," she told the court.

Inspector John Chandler, now retired, who organised the identity parade in Gloucester, told the court that he had tried his best to get a normal identity parade together but had been unable to find any volunteers, despite telephone calls to other *forces. "The situation is that* Rastafarian-type persons do not wish to co-operate with the police," he said.

Instead, he decided to film Mr Whyte secretly and then add another 12 people to the video. "I arranged for a make-up artist to come to Gloucester police station and also for a number of black persons so we could film them in the same circumstances as we had filmed Mr Whyte earlier. We arranged wigs for the volunteers." *Inspector Michael Smith said* Mr Whyte's two alleged victims had both broken down when they saw Mr Whyte *on the tape.*

The jury had been told that Mr Whyte, 34, broke into the homes of two women in May last year. He allegedly repeatedly raped a 26-year-old nurse and then, 24 hours later, indecently assaulted another woman, whom he held *hostage* in her own home. The trial continues.

'Poetic' stalker told not to harrass ex-lover

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A LOVE-SICK stalker who sent threatening poems to his travel agent mistress after she ended their affair was yesterday ordered to stay away from her.

In a judgment said to be the first of its kind in Scotland, *Sheriff Terence Russell* granted a non-harrassment order barring David Mackenzie, 41, *from contacting 33-year-old* Hazel Koerner.

Mackenzie, an engineer, wrote letters in the form of poems, telling Miss Koerner he would tamper with the brakes on her car. He also threatened to hold a knife to her face. The married father-of-one also sent her a list of *phone numbers for hospitals* and funeral parlours in the area and told her she would need to use them.

He later told the police: "I wanted her to realise she can't mess up other people's lives. I wanted her to accept responsibility. I was just trying to scare her."

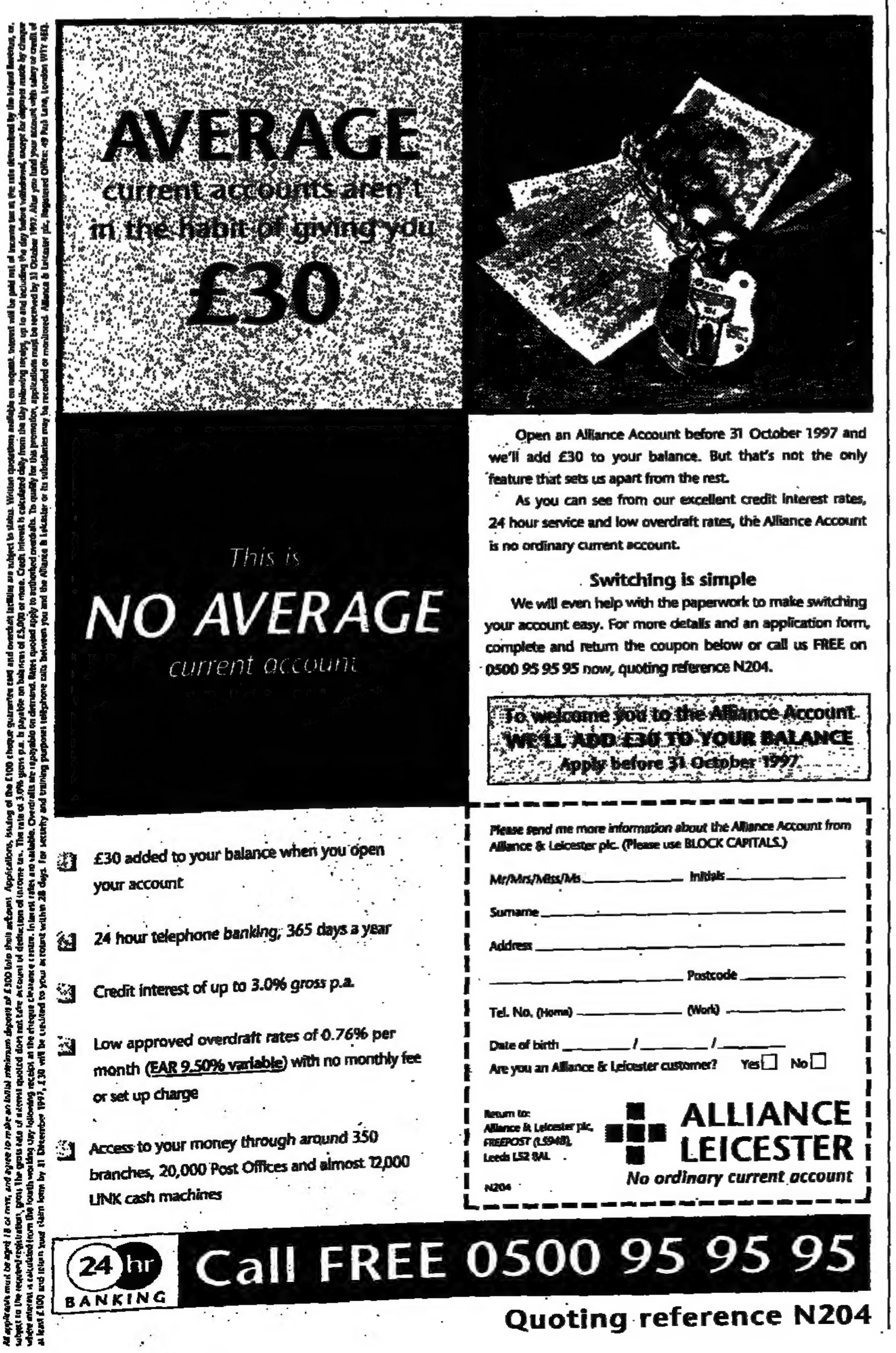
At Kilmarnock Sheriff Court, Mackenzie, of Irvine, admitted five charges of sending messages to Miss Koerner at Going Places travel agents in Main Street, Largs, and *placing her in a state of fear* and alarm between January and February this year.

He also admitted three charges of vandalising her B-registered car last November and December by slashing a tyre, scratching the paintwork and smashing a headlight.

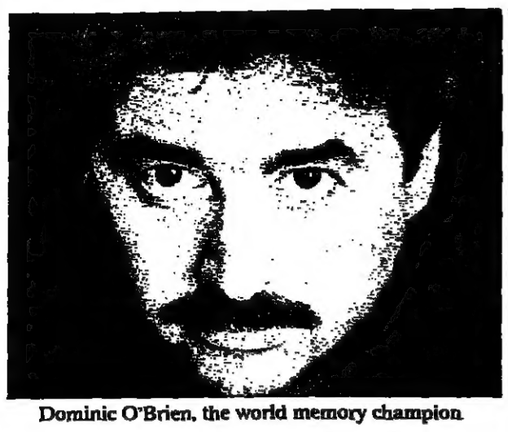
Sheriff Russell ordered Mackenzie to carry out 200 hours of community service, and told him to pay his former lover £200 compensation.

The court was told that Mackenzie's hate campaign began after *Miss* Koerner ended their relationship last November. At the same time *Mackenzie, a project engineer* with West of Scotland Water, told his wife of 18 years about his affair and she told him their marriage was over.

Glenn Davis, for the defence, said: "Mr Mackenzie married his wife in 1979 and his marriage was quite happy until November 1995 when he embarked on an affair with this lady."

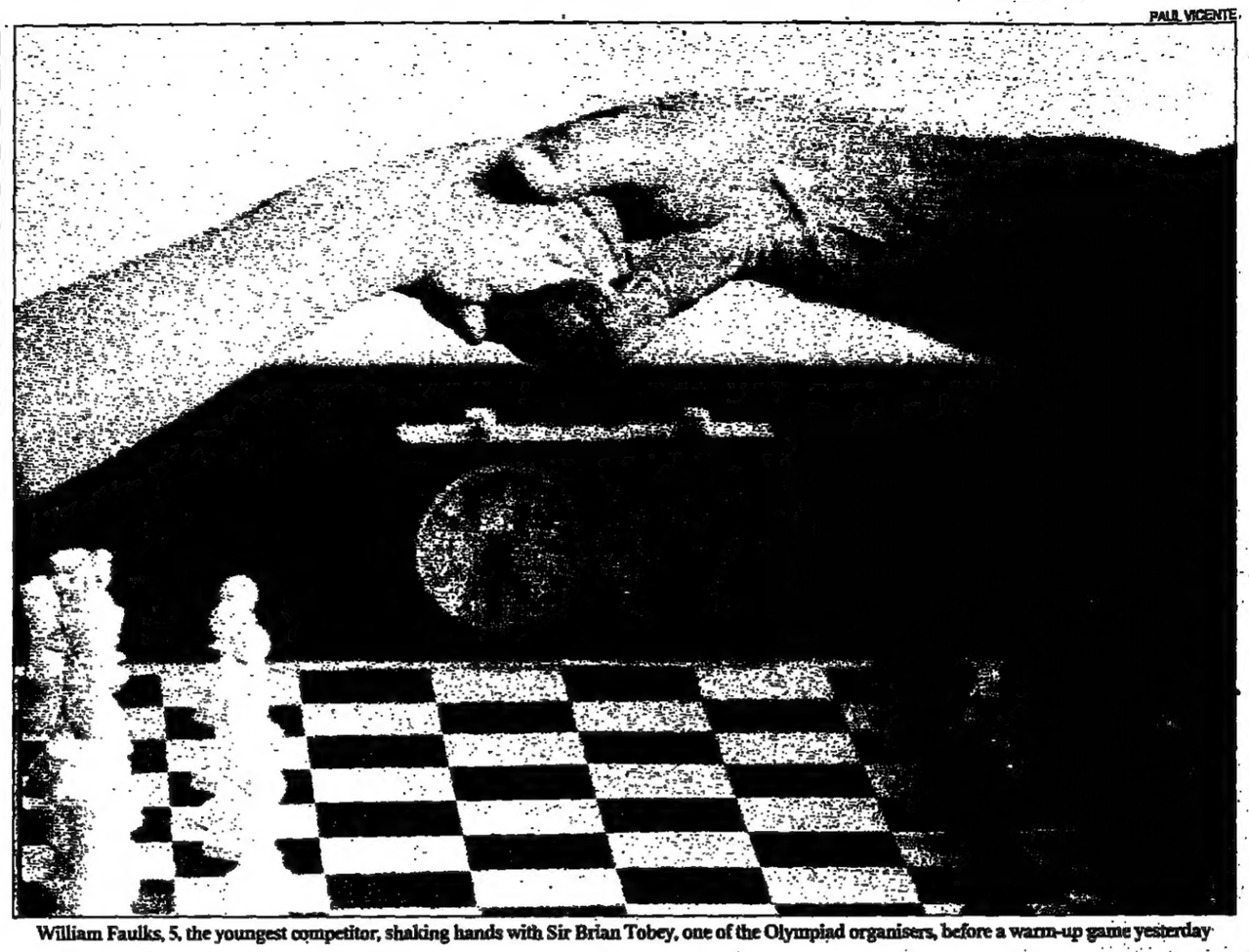


Mental athletes tone their bodies to keep their minds in shape



Dominic O'Brien, the world memory champion

PAUL VICENTE



William Faulks, 5, the youngest competitor, shaking hands with Sir Brian Tobey, one of the Olympiad organisers, before a warm-up game yesterday

Fitness programme, pasta diet and help from Diana and Dodi allow memory champion to exercise grey cells, reports **Mark Henderson**

BRAINBOXES no longer have sand kicked in their faces. Competitors at the Mind Sports Olympiad employ rigorous physical training techniques as they strive to beat their cerebral rivals.

Memory champions and chess and draughts players said yesterday that they ran, swam and cycled hundreds of miles each year to improve their aerobic fitness as well as harnessing science to increase their mental agility.

The Olympiad, which started at the Royal Festival in London yesterday, features 36 mind sports. It has a total prize fund of £100,000.

Dominic O'Brien, 40, the world memory champion from Barley, Hertfordshire, who can memorise a pack of cards in 32.8 seconds, followed a two-month training programme for his event, which begins on Thursday. He runs four miles a day, drinks no alcohol for six weeks before a tournament and eats lots of pasta and other carbohydrates to keep his blood sugar high at competition time.

He also takes regular doses of ginkyo biloba, a Chinese herb said to improve circulation by dilating the blood vessels, practises the trance-like state in which he performs his astonishing mnemonic feats, and has regular brain scans to check that each part of his brain is performing to its potential.

"It's crucial to maintain your body in peak condition and exercise the mind," he said. "I have a mnemonic system which needs practice, and I also work at lowering my brain activity to the optimum concentration level."

He uses a system of associating people and places with numbers and cards. The number ten is Dudley Moore, because he starred in the film *Ten*, 99 is Mr Whippy, the queen of hearts is Diana, Princess of Wales — and the knave of diamonds is now Dodi Fayed.

In competition, Mr O'Brien lowers his brain activity rate to between five and seven hertz, the equivalent of most people when dreaming. This allows a higher degree of concentration which enables him to remember sequences of up to 1,400 cards or numbers. Normal brain activity is 12 to 14 hertz.

Ron King, 40, from Barbados, who has held the world draughts title for ten years, is a teetotaller who follows a meat-free diet and a fitness programme. "I run marathons and play five-set tennis matches for stamina, and dive to improve concentration," he said. "Diving is about poise and balance and requires the same sort of mental rigour as competition draughts."

Chess players also use fitness training and psychology. Garry Kasparov employs the same sports psychologist as the pole vaulter Sergey Bubka. Kasparov famously ground down Anatoly Karpov, his world title opponent in 1984-85, by tiring him out with a string of draws before pouncing on a drained opponent who had lost 30lb.

Matthew Sadler, 23, the British No 2 who is ranked 16 in the world, said his game took off after he started to take psychological and mental training seriously. "I began to follow the grandmaster Julian Hodgson, who was never a great technical player but who thought about his opponents' weaknesses," he said. "I got fitter and trained my mind to play the man as well as the game."

He eats bananas to keep his blood sugar high during six-hour games, and drinks isotonic drinks in hot conditions. Before a tournament in Armenia, he learnt the language and ate nothing but Armenian food to acclimatise.

Tony Buzan, one of the organisers of the Olympiad, who has written many books on mental training, said that competition mind sports required the same intensity as many physical sports. "Mind athletes are athletes, every bit as much as runners," he said. "There are two key aspects, aerobic and mental fitness. The brain uses 40 per cent of the body's oxygen, and a strong body promotes brain activity. Then you can train your mind, as all the great thinkers, like Leonardo de Vinci and Einstein, did."

Imagination, he added, could do for a mind what weight training could do for a body. "Watch a vase of flowers, concentrate on every detail, then close your eyes and imagine it," he advised. "You can keep repeating it until you find it hard to tell the difference between the real image and the imagined one. Mind-training techniques like that can open up a new sphere of mental fitness."

The Mind Sports Olympiad, which includes *The Times* Crossword Championship, is sponsored by the insurance group Skandia and supported by *The Times*.

Chess and Bridge, page 38

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dog judge jailed for starving his terrier

A dog show judge was jailed for three months and banned from keeping animals for life yesterday for letting his border terrier, Oscar, starve to death in his garage. Raymond Gough, 40, from Braintree, Essex, a judge with the South West Essex Canine Association, had been convicted after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing. His two other border terriers have been found new homes.

David Whipps, for the RSPCA, told Braintree Magistrates Court that Mr Gough's former wife broke into the garage last November and found Oscar lying in a covered cage. The dog, half its normal weight, was lying next to three empty food bowls and had been dead for some days.

Cashier jailed

Susan Woodard, 40, who had worked for 23 years as a cashier at Barclays Bank, Pontypool, Torfean, transferred almost £29,000 over two years from the account of a retired engineer to her own before he noticed. Newport Crown Court jailed Woodard, a mother of three, for 15 months. She told police she had stolen the money to pay off family debts.

Identity cards

Four out of five young people support the introduction of compulsory identity cards for teenagers, according to an NOP survey. Three-quarters of adults questioned believed ID cards should be issued to everyone in Britain. Support for the cards was highest among the over-55s, at 83 per cent. Overall, four out of five said ID cards would help to prevent under-age drinking.

Boxer bereaved

The boxer Herbie Hide was said to be devastated after his ten-year-old brother Alan died from leukaemia. Hide said his brother, who was diagnosed with the condition four years ago, was a motivating factor behind his career when he regained the WBO heavyweight title in June. Hide is to appear before Norwich magistrates next month accused of assault.

Beggar guilty

A Covent Garden street beggar who killed an Australian backpacker after he refused to give him money was jailed for three years. An Old Bailey jury found Peter McCaffery, 23, who now lives near Renfrew in Scotland, guilty of the manslaughter of Robert Nankervis, 24, of Melbourne, who died in hospital 15 days after a single punch to the face in January this year.

£630,000 D-type

A 1956 D-type Jaguar found in a barn in Connecticut and unused for 16 years was sold for £630,124 at a Christie's car auction at Pebble Beach, Northern California. It cost £3,878 when new. D-types won the Le Mans 24-hour race for three consecutive years between 1955-57. Chassis number XKD 557, never raced, was sold as "one of the best-preserved in the world".

CORRECTIONS

In 1996-97 1.2 million people visited Windsor Castle, not half a million, as wrongly printed in the letter from Dickie Arbiter (August 15). Mr Ralph Blumenau's letter (August 16) should have referred to dogmatic thinkers who use the utmost ingenuity in their arguments (not integrity, as printed).

Nature may not know best in heated debate

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE old concept that "nature knows best", and that parents and doctors should not always try to bring down a child's fever, has been revived by Ivan Blumenthal, a consultant paediatrician in Oldham, Lancashire, writing in the journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The rationale for not reducing a high temperature is that it is the body's response to infection: the fever provides an environment that is inhospitable to the marauding organisms, and so checks their growth.

However, the argument that the body's response to an infection is always to the advantage of the patient is hard to sustain. The terrible haemorrhages induced by the toxin of the meningococcal bacterium can kill within hours, or leave a child crippled. Likewise, the pneumonia that is a feature of some serious cases of measles can result in permanent lung damage.

Up to 4 per cent of children are liable to suffer febrile convulsions if their temperature rises above 38.5C (101.3F). They may occur as a brief single incident, the so-called febrile seizure, can be repeated throughout the day, or any one attack may be prolonged. If the child suffers more than one incident in 24 hours, or any individual attack lasts for more than 15 minutes, the seizure is classified as a complicated febrile infantile convulsion, which has more serious implications.

The overwhelming majority of infantile febrile convulsions cause no lasting damage, but in a small proportion the child may subsequently have febrile convulsions each time he or she has a high temperature, or will develop epilepsy in later life. It is not certain whether the fever merely uncovers a pre-existing tendency to epilepsy.

However, if my grandchild was running a high temperature I would rather not take the chance, when the correct dose of paracetamol would make him more comfortable, happier and encourage a restful sleep.

Most febrile convulsions are seen in children between the ages of three months and five years: in this age group and until late adolescence, aspirin is not given to reduce a temperature as it is one of the known causes of Reye's syndrome. This is a rare reaction to infection from various viruses, including flu, and fungal infections as well as to the aspirin group of drugs. In susceptible patients this leads to destruction of the liver, kidney, heart and brain through fatty infiltration. The death rate is high — about 20 per cent — and another 30 per cent are left permanently damaged.

Letters, page 17

Pop goes anarchy as band cashes in

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN anarchist pop group made up of squatters and punk rockers has committed the ultimate sell-out by reaching number two in the UK charts.

To their bemusement the members of Chumbawamba, which opposes the commercialisation of rock music and satirised Live Aid with an album entitled *Pictures of Starving Children Sell Records*, have become overnight stars.

The eight band members live in a squat in Leeds and have never had a hit record in their 13-year history. But they have now signed a record deal with EMI in Germany after years with independent record labels, and an album is imminent. Their success came after the Radio 1 disc jockey Simon Mayo made their single, *Tubthumping*, his record of the week. The song extols the virtues of drinking whisky, cider and lager and features swearing in its chorus.

It is only recently that the group was campaigning against new Labour and also subverted the Leah Betts "Sorted" anti-drug poster with their own postcards, captioned "Distorted". Yesterday the band's members insisted they were still anarchists. Singer Alice Nutter said: "We still carry the idea we had 12 years ago that no-one should have to go to work 40 hours a week and do a crap job."

Study counsels caution on a cure-all for life's ills

Some problems cannot be resolved by just 'getting it all out of your system', reports Nigel Hawkes

COUNSELLING, the 1990s remedy for life's problems, is ineffective when used on its own to help those at risk of depression or other mental illness.

The conclusion, reached by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York, will come as unwelcome news to the growing army of counsellors, now believed to run into tens of thousands.

No disaster is complete until those involved have been offered counselling, a technique which involves sharing worries by talking them through. The bereaved, the unemployed, the divorced and children from disadvantaged backgrounds are all considered to be at high risk of suffering long-term damage unless it can be averted by counselling.

But the study by the York centre concludes that "counselling by itself has not been shown to produce sustained benefit in a variety of groups at risk". Among women who have had a miscarriage, for example, none of the three trials into the effectiveness of counselling showed a sustained effect.

The same was true of bereavement counselling. The report says it showed no effect on "quality of life, satisfaction or frustration levels in people close to deceased cancer patients", and no difference in depression among spouses of people who had committed suicide.

"There has been a rapid growth in the employment of counsellors, particularly within primary care," the report concludes. "However, there is little evidence that generic counselling, provided by itself, is particularly effective. More attention needs to be given to the content and effectiveness of specific forms of counselling and the skills of counsellors before this approach is extended too widely."

The York centre was set up with government money to provide independent advice on different treatments. It does so by reviewing the literature, not by conducting its own research. In this case, it has reviewed all the available studies of the effectiveness of various forms of counselling in helping people with mental health problems.

Mary Turner-Boutle, editor of the bulletin in which the findings appeared, said yesterday: "There is a great shortage of research evidence in this field, but what there is fails to show that counselling in general is effective. But we did find that specific sorts of counselling, in particular cognitive behavioural therapy, can have good results."

A spokesman for the British Association for Counselling said that she thought the conclusions were rather sweeping: "We have never claimed that counselling by itself is a panacea for everybody," she said. "But we find that GPs are extremely satisfied by the effectiveness of counselling used in conjunction with other treatments, such as drugs for example." The association's directory of counsellors in private practice lists 2,500 names, up from 800 in 1988.

About 60 per cent of GP surgeries now employ counsellors, with two thirds of their salaries paid by the NHS. Nobody knows how many counsellors there are, but membership of the association is more than 15,000. Many counsellors have set themselves up with little or no qualifications, and competence varies widely.

"This is a terribly difficult area in which to conduct research," the association spokesman said. "Often only the patients and the counsellor know what has gone on, and patients are usually reluctant to talk about it. Are they happier? Can they cope better?"

Ms Turner-Boutle says: "This is such a burgeoning field, with such a proliferation of counsellors, that it is important to try to measure how successful it is. We are not saying that counselling is useless, but that there is no evidence to demonstrate that it is effective."

Miners who put paid to Scargill say pit closure is a betrayal

Union feud will hit job prospects, writes Peter Foster

MINERS who were enticed to one of the country's biggest privatised pits after the 1984-85 strike by the promise of long-term work were feeling bitter and cheated yesterday when it was announced that the mine would close.

Asfordby A Mine, in Leicestershire, which employs nearly 500 miners, ceased production after its owner, RJB Mining, declared it unsafe and uneconomic. One despondent worker said yesterday: "I swallowed the Asfordby dream pill. Now I have been left with nothing."

Miners spent their last shift doing routine maintenance work before clocking off and returning home to discuss their futures with wives and families. Martin Hine, 35, who made tunnels in the rock, said he was typical of the workforce: "I came here and bought a large house on the promise of a job for life. I have a mortgage and two children to support.

"I shall have to get work at another pit if I can. The only jobs around here are at a cheese factory, and I would have to start at the bottom on half the money. I am too old for that."

The Asfordby miners are known in the industry as "gypsies", because of the number of times they have moved to find work. RJB Mining promised yesterday that a large proportion would be offered work in other pits, but said there would be some compulsory redundancies.

Those who accept redundancy will receive approximately £900 for each year they have worked in the coal industry. One Asfordby worker said he would take the offer because he feared being made redundant again later: "If I move to another pit now I could find myself on state redundancy payments in three or four years' time."

Neil Greatorex, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which represents the majority of Asfordby workers, said he was sure that the closure would be followed by others. This was denied by Bill Rowell, managing director for deep mines at RJB, who said: "We have no plans to shut other pits."

> "I bought a large house on the promise of a job for life. I have a mortgage and two children to support"

The job prospects of the Asfordby workers will not be helped by the still-bitter feud between the UDM and the National Union of Mineworkers, dating from the 1984-85 strike. UDM members said they would not be able to accept work in Yorkshire pits such as Maltby. "We can't go up there because we'd get kicked in," said one, who asked not to be named. "Underground you have to trust your mates to survive. Working with NUM lads you couldn't do that."

Asfordby was bought by RJB as part of an £815 million package when British Coal was privatised in 1984. The pit has lost £35 million in the past two years.

The UDM accused the company of a deliberate ploy to close the mine and insisted that it was still viable. Some commentators said it was a tactical move to put pressure on the Government to help the coal industry as it faces the renegotiation of its five-year supply contracts with the power generating companies next spring. It fears that competition from natural gas will lead to smaller contracts.

However, a senior source at RJB said: "This closure was strictly about economic viability and safety. We've had the best engineers and technicians working at Asfordby, but it just isn't safe or economic to keep extracting the coal. If we can't do it, nobody can."

IAN HODGSON

The last day for miners at Asfordby A pit. Many of the 500 workers will be offered work at other mines, but some will be made redundant

Mr Greatorex said: "There are areas of coal that are economic, but the management have given us no alternatives. They are stripping equipment out of the mine on Monday, which will make it even harder for us to find someone to buy the pit." The union said that it was in talks with another, unnamed, mining company to discuss the prospects of buying Asfordby.

Mr Greatorex added that he had written to Tony Blair and John Prescott to ask for help to save the mine: "The Tories threw away the miners and their industry and the Labour Party used this as propaganda to get elected. If Mr Blair doesn't do something to put this right, the coal industry will be at death's door."

RJB said that the technical problems at the pit had been caused by beds of hard rock above the coal seam putting pressure on the workface and causing cave-ins and flooding. After attempting to mine a 250-metre face, the company switched to smaller, 60-metre sections 18 months ago in an effort to overcome the difficulties. This was successful, but when they attempted to mine a 120-metre section, flooding and cave-ins recurred. Earlier this month the company was forced to abandon the section, leaving more than £5 million of equipment at the face.

Contract fight, page 23
Tarnished crown, page 27

Detectives target a plague of fraudsters

By Shirley English

ELEVEN police forces in Scotland and northern England yesterday launched their biggest crackdown on fraudsters and sneak thieves who prey on the elderly.

Bogus callers swindle an estimated £1 million a year from unsuspecting householders. All eight Scottish police forces, together with Cumbria Constabulary, Northumbria Police and British Transport Police, have teamed up for Operation Hamelin.

The initiative, which will use the theme of the Pied Piper and the slogan "If you smell a rat ... keep it out", is being led by Strathclyde Police, Scotland's largest force. Around 5,000 crimes by confidence tricksters and bogus callers take place in Scotland each year, but police believe up to 50 per cent of crimes go unreported.

Most victims are over 70, while the fraudsters can be as as young as ten. Crimes can vary from a few pence taken by a bogus charity collector to thousands of pounds charged by door-to-door "tradesmen".

Operation Hamelin has been divided into three phases. For the first phase the 11 forces spent July collating information on criminal movements across force boundaries. The shared information contributed to the arrest of 48 suspected criminals during the "enforcement" phase, earlier this month. The third phase, launched yesterday, is intended to raise public awareness with leaflets and posters.

OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA

Gordon Mitchell and his son Alex, who ended their holiday early after the attack

Father and son held by gunmen in Florida hotel room

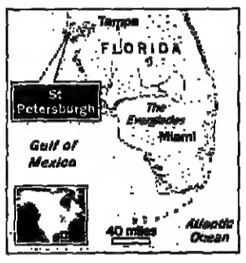
By Harvey Elliott, travel correspondent

A BOY aged nine and his father have been attacked and tied up in their hotel room in Florida by two armed robbers.

Gordon Mitchell and his son Alex had just left their room in the Howard Johnson Hotel on St Pete's Beach, St Petersburg, when they were confronted by the two men. "One stopped Alex from running ahead and the other pulled out an automatic pistol and said 'Get back in your room'," said Mr Mitchell, 40, a sales director from Newcastle upon Tyne.

"I was so nervous it took five attempts to open the door. Then one of the men took the key, opened it and pushed us inside. He made us lie face down on the floor and tied our wrists behind us. They demanded jewellery and money and took my watch and about $250 from my wife and daughter's holiday money. The gunmen got frustrated that there wasn't anything else and he gave the weapon to his friend and said 'Shoot anyone who comes in the door'."

Mr Mitchell's wife Lynne, 39, and their other children Kirsty, 16, and Andrew, 14, were in the hotel restaurant.



The Mitchells arranged to be flown home a week earlier than planned. They are claiming the entire cost of their holiday from Unijet, the tour operator.

Rex Huskey, the hotel's manager, said: "We could not find them another room in the hotel on the night that incident happened but switched them to another property along the street. The next day we gave them one of our best executive rooms but they claimed we were trying to keep them away from other guests." Mr Mitchell, however, said that the hotel wanted to "play the whole thing down" and said they should have warned other guests.

More than 1.3 million Britons will visit Florida this year, and 442,000 of them will go to St Petersburg. This is the first reported case of an attack on British tourists in the town.

☐ A couple who paid more than £2,000 for a package holiday for themselves and two children in Majorca were given the keys to a converted lock-up garage rather than the comfortable apartment they expected.

Complaints at the site failed to find a solution and Mary Brisley, 43, Andrew Oakley, 35, and two girls aged 11 spent four days in the windowless garage instead of what the brochure had described as "an attractive apartment set in a secluded location with a high standard of comfort and friendly service".

They are claiming compensation from the tour operator Sunset and the travel agents Lunn Poly.

THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION

Department of Social Security

Harman sees work as best form of welfare

Blair's team at Social Security is breaking with the past, writes Alexandra Frean

THE litmus test of the radicalism of Tony Blair's Government will be how it tackles the welfare state and the growing £90 billion social security bill.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, and Frank Field, her deputy, have been told to take on what is seen as the culture of welfare dependency in Britain. Previous Labour governments have sought to increase benefits. This Prime Minister says that he wants to cut benefit bills, by getting people into work, and use the savings on education.

Ms Harman has an internal party battle on her hands, with several Labour MPs angered by her decision to go ahead with the Tory Government's plan to cut benefits for lone parents by £11 a week. Even the Government's advisers, the Social Security Advisory Committee, said that it should at least be deferred.

The appointment as Minister of State for Welfare Reform of Mr Field, in the past dismissed by some as a maverick but respected by others as an original thinker, showed Mr Blair's determination to bring spending under control. For years, Mr Field preached the gospel of welfare reform from the back benches and as chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Social Security. Untrammelled by front-bench responsibilities, he advocated measures such as compulsory savings for a second pension, a new form of National Insurance and a remodelled income support system.

John Denham, a junior minister, is heading the pensions review, but Mr Field is bound to have a significant input.

Ms Harman's presentational skills are likely to be an important asset as she sets out reforms that will profoundly affect the lives of millions. Her starting point is that "work is the best form of welfare".

"I want to reform the welfare state around the notion of work and the work ethic," she says. "That's important, not just for people of working age but for children and for people in retirement. We want the focus to be the 'hand up', not the 'hand out'."

Now that the Department for Education and Employment has begun to implement its welfare-to-work "new deal", Ms Harman is setting out her stall. She has already announced an initiative for getting lone parents back to work. More than 70 of a proposed total of 1,000 "personal advisers" have been installed in eight jobcentres to help single parents to find training and work. Critics argue that the scheme will only scratch the surface of the problem.

Ms Harman has long championed the cause of Britain's lone mothers. While in Opposition, she campaigned to get the provision of childcare incorporated into Labour's long-term economic and employment strategy. There are now one million lone mothers bringing up two million children dependent on benefit at a cost of £10 billion a year, she says, "and we have to do something about it".

Ms Harman's belief in the work ethic is also reflected in the announcement that the Government is to spend £200 million on the training of people on disability and sickness benefit to help them to find jobs. The official line is that this is a way of bringing back into the mainstream those marginalised by society. The implication of policies such as these, however, is that whatever benefit you are on, the department will seek some way to get you into work.

Ms Harman believes that much money is wasted by inefficiency in benefits agencies and the caring services. She also wants to review the way in which some services are paid for centrally but supplied locally. As with other of her reforms, this will require a great deal of co-operation between departments.

Ms Harman's hope that the Government has put childcare on a par with other essential parts of the economic infrastructure may prove over-optimistic. But there is no doubt that her views reflect a pronounced departure from that of previous administrations.

Depart of Social Security

HARRIET HARMAN: Secretary of State for Social Security
Aged 47. The most telegenic member of the Cabinet. Her presentational skills and her utter loyalty to Labour's modernisation project have also ensured her place at the top table. But she has enemies within the party who doubt her intellectual skills and will still not forgive her for sending her son to a grammar school.

FRANK FIELD: Minister for Welfare Reform
As a backbencher, Frank Field, 55, Minister for Welfare Reform, was a virtual one-man policy unit, coming up with visionary ideas for reducing welfare dependency. Formerly chairman of Commons Select Committee on Social Security. Formerly head of the Child Poverty Action Group and the Low Pay Unit, he is concerned that welfare reforms do not harm the long-term ill or the elderly. Educated at Hull University.

JOHN DENHAM: Parliamentary Under Secretary
The City was pleased with the appointment of John Denham, 44, the Parliamentary Under Secretary responsible for pensions, as he had courted the big investment institutions whilst in opposition as a Labour spokesman on social security. Graduate of Southampton University, he previously worked for Friends of the Earth, British Youth Council and War on Want.

KEITH BRADLEY: Parliamentary Undersecretary
As a "hard left" Manchester City Councillor in the 80s, Keith Bradley, 47, Parliamentary Undersecretary for income-related benefits, poverty, recovery of benefits and green issues, supported motions to send cash to striking miners. Educated at Aston University, Manchester Polytechnic and York University.

BARONESS HOLLIS OF HEIGHAM: Parliamentary Undersecretary of State in the Lords
Aged 56, rose from prominence as leader of Norwich Council. The daughter of a farm-worker she became a senior lecturer in modern history after graduating from Girton College, Cambridge and Nuffield College, Oxford. She led the onslaught on last year's Divorce Bill to ensure that divorcing women could take a slice of their ex-husbands' pensions.

ANN BOWTELL: Permanent Secretary
Aged 59, educated at Girton College, Cambridge. Ms Bowtell has spent most of her civil service career in the Department of Social Security, which replaced the National Assistance Board, which she joined as a graduate trainee in 1960.

Special advisers

JOHN McTERNAN: Part of the Labour Party "Scottish mafia" aged 38, joined the party when he was 15 and previously worked as head of information at the National Institute for Social Work. Educated at Edinburgh University.

LIZ KENDALL: Aged 26. A Cambridge graduate, worked for the Institute for Public Policy Research before joining Harriet Harman's team in opposition. Tends to concentrate on women's issues especially lone mothers.

The In-Tray

- Introducing a national childcare strategy. The Government has already earmarked £150 million of National Lottery money for the creation of a network of "out of school" clubs, to provide child care in the evenings and school holidays. A further £200 million has been allocated to training to help single mothers find jobs.
- The department has already taken action on service delivery with the publication last month of the Social Security Bill, which aims to cut red tape, reduce benefit and tax loopholes and introduce a highly sophisticated information technology system.
- Ms Harman has ordered the Child Support Agency to attack its backlog of cases and to complete an extra 500,000 assessments by the end of the year.
- Labour's comprehensive pensions review, launched last month, aims to to supplement state provision with private-sector funding and to encourage people to make their own provision for their old age. Plans for a new "stakeholder pension" are already the subject of extensive consultation with the City and with user groups.
- Other ways of supplementing state provision could include the setting up of new institutions to offer benefits to individuals, based on the concept of "mutuality". Friendly societies or trade unions could offer individuals insurance to cover sickness, unemployment or long-term care.
- Clamping down on benefit fraud will be a high priority. The department is likely to toughen sanctions for benefit cheats. It has already backed a crack fraud-busting hit-squad in London, called LOFIT, launched last week to track down housing benefit fraud.
- Housing benefit, which currently costs £12 billion a year, is likely to be one of the first areas targeted by the department's comprehensive spending review. Under present rules it can act as a disincentive to many unemployed people getting jobs.
- The department is working jointly with the Treasury and the Inland Revenue to review the potential for integrating the tax and benefit systems into a single system and to introduce tax breaks which encourage unemployed and low-paid people to work.

Survival of deer 'depends on hunt'

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

DEER hunters mounted a new challenge in the High Court yesterday to the National Trust's ban on the use of its land for the sport, arguing that wild red deer could disappear outside Scotland if hunting were stopped.

Counsel for members of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, the Quantock Staghounds and tenant farmers told Mr Justice Robert Walker that when there had been no hunting in the area the red deer herd, now about 2,500 strong, had dwindled to 60 animals because of poaching and the farmers' right to shoot deer feeding on their crops.

The only reason landowners were prepared to tolerate the deer and the damage they did, he said, was because the animals provided quarry for a sport that was estimated to bring £4 million a year into the local economy.

"The National Trust ban has caused very considerable anger and concern in the West Country, not only among landowners and farmers on [trust] land but concern among scientists and animal conservationists who fear it will lead to an end to the protection of the red deer herds. They believe the decision to ban hunting was ill-considered and reached in unseemly haste."

The deer hunters want the judge to grant an order suspending the trust ban, imposed in April, until the outcome of a judicial review of its legality. The hearing continues.

East Germany was better, judges told

Politburo leaders await verdict for killings by border guards

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

EAST Germany's Communist leaders, only days away from a landmark court verdict, pleaded yesterday for mercy while accusing Bonn of applying victors' justice.

"I am not a bloodthirsty monster who ordered killings, or even tolerated them," Egon Krenz, the former Communist Party leader, said. "A criminal I am not."

The 20-month trial is Germany's final reckoning with the East German past. Herr Krenz, with Günter Schabowski and Günther Kleiber, both former Politburo members, are accused of ordering the shooting of four men who tried to cross the death strip that divided East and West in the 1980s.

Herr Krenz, 60, was the most combative in the Berlin court yesterday. "The victorious power is exercising revenge on the representatives of the defeated power," he said in an hour-long appeal to the judges which swung between anger and special pleading. The prosecutor has demanded an 11-year jail sentence on manslaughter charges.

The public gallery, populated by Communist sypathisers, as for every one of the 115 hearings, burst into applause when he said: "In the German Democratic Republic we lived in a society which would never have accepted that youths leave their school desks and immediately graduate to the dole queue." The East German system was better. "The attempt to realise socialism on German soil was my task." The verdict on that would be passed, he said, by history and not by a court.

His colleagues were more repentant. "We tried forcibly to bring heaven to earth, and we failed," Herr Schabowski said. The new Germany was "the only historical answer to our failed attempt". The 68-year-old, plainly fearing the nine-year jail sentence that could be imposed next Monday, said that he had seen the truth too late.

> ‘Maybe it is victors' justice, but who else will stand up for the victims of the losers?’

All three men denied that they were guilty of the killings on the East-West frontier. It is believed that the defence case is relatively strong. Although 263 people were killed while trying to escape, the rules on the frontier were relaxed in 1983 and the three defendants were in the Politburo only from 1983 onwards.

Four people were killed on the frontier between 1983 and 1989. But although the Politburo certainly carried the overall blame for enforcing the frontier controls, it is difficult to prove individual guilt. In the last six years of the East German state the Politburo did not make any new decisions on the frontier, nor was there any explicit discussion about the shoot-to-kill order. So the defence argument is that the Politburo members in the dock are merely representatives of the defunct regime and that the trial was entirely political.

The prosecution has been proceeding very thoroughly. The authorities have tried and sentenced border guards, their commanding officers, generals and members of the National Security Council. That is, the courts have gone up every rung of the hierarchy in search of the guilty.

Herr Krenz, the Politburo chief, is at the very top of that ladder. The prosecution has had to accept there was probably never a written 'shoot-to-kill order, but every border guard knew he had to shoot if he saw an escaper on the death strip. That certainly came from above and derived its authority from the leaders of the regime.

The most emotionally involved participant in the Berlin courtroom yesterday was Heinrich Schmidt. His son Michael, 20, a carpenter, was using a ladder to climb over the wall, having successfully dodged all the other obstacles including a dog run, when a frontier guard shot him. The guard, who was about the same age as Michael Schmidt, has been sentenced to 18 months' jail and from that trial Herr Schmidt found out for the first time the grisly details of the last moments of his son's life.

Michael was allowed to bleed at the foot of the wall for three hours: had he been treated within 60 minutes he could have survived. The killing happened on December 1, 1984. Herr Krenz had been in the Politburo for a year. Herr Schmidt has lodged his own case alongside that of the state prosecutor. "Maybe it is victors' justice, as they say," he admits, "but who else will stand up for the victims of the losers?"

FABRIZIO BENISCH / REUTERS

A defiant Egon Krenz in court at Berlin yesterday before telling his judges in his final defence plea "I am not a bloodthirsty monster"

America 'flouted test-ban treaty to upgrade its nuclear arsenal'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON was accused yesterday of breaking an international arms treaty by trying to increase the power of its nuclear weapons.

US officials denied the charge and said they were merely investigating ways to modernise old designs to increase the safety and security of warheads, not to upgrade their strength.

The argument goes to the heart of the extent to which the nuclear powers keep their ageing stockpiles of bombs and missiles in fighting trim while they are forbidden by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty from testing them, even underground.

The test-ban treaty, signed by 146 nations, was endorsed last year by the United Nations with the goal of halting the development of all new weapons of mass destruction. President Clinton hailed the pact as a technological barrier that would end the arms race.

Yesterday's dispute was prompted by the release of recently declassified documents by the overseers of the American weapons programme. They were acting under pressure from the Natural Resources Defence Council, a Washington arms-control watchdog group.

Matthew McKinzie, a nuclear physicist with the council, pounced on an admission in the documents that America's weapons laboratories are working on ways to provide "new or modified designs" for weapons. Dr McKinzie said such work could be intended only to increase the power and precision of warheads and to improve their ability to penetrate heavily protected enemy bunkers.

Among the weapons affected are the W76 and W88 warheads for Trident submarine missiles. Britain buys Trident missiles from America but designs its own warheads at Aldermaston which are believed to be based on the W76. Nicola Butler, an analyst with the British-American Security Information Council, another private arms-control group, said that any design changes by the Americans would have to be studied by British nuclear engineers to determine how they affected the missiles' performance and whether they needed to be copied.

Officials at the US Energy Department, with stewardship over the nuclear stockpile, insisted the current work did not involve major redesigns that would increase the power of warheads. The department was designing no new weapons, they said.

Victor Reis, the official in charge of nuclear maintenance, compared the work to tinkering with an old car. "When you put in a new battery or have a piston-ring job, it's still an old car," he said.

Dr McKinzie, however, believes the changes to be more sweeping. Using the same analogy, he said they could amount to putting a new and more powerful engine in a car.

He feared that the Government's nuclear physicists were getting carried away and could not resist the temptation to improve existing weapons. He said they were making remarkable progress, even without testing, through computer simulations and pointed out that the laboratories' annual budget of $4 billion (£2.5 billion) is a vast sum if all they are doing is maintenance and checking for flaws.

Khatami: sought return of European envoys

Iran leader loses fight for EU ties

PRESIDENT KHATAMI of Iran failed in his bid for a more moderate approach to the European Union (writes Michael Evans). Western intelligence sources say other politicians opposed his attempts to arrange the return of all EU envoys to Tehran. They were ordered home after Iran was implicated in the death of Kurds in Berlin.

British troops put guard on Karadzic spy centre

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

BRITISH troops stood guard yesterday over one of the nerve centres of Radovan Karadzic's secret police network: a labyrinth of bugging and surveillance equipment where a Muslim was beaten to death last year.

Four Warrior armoured personnel carriers and 30 soldiers encircled the Banja Luka Public Security Centre in the confusing aftermath of a security coup early on Sunday when special police loyal to Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb President, took over the building. They in turn were evicted by the British troops, who, following new Nato Stabilisation Force (Sfor) guidelines in Bosnia, were restoring the security centre yesterday evening to local police control.

Crowds gathered outside the security centre, including at least 50 uniformed Serb police officers and another 40 thuggish plainclothes officers who eyed the British troops aggressively. There was a tense stand-off, with British officers pushing local police back into the road. Major Dragan Lukac, 35, a Plavsic loyalist who commanded the coup, stood outside the entrance, talking to officials from the Office of the High Representative to Bosnia.

Despite the bewildering mixture of Serb forces involved, the overall message of events in Banja Luka was clear: Mrs Plavsic is now in open conflict with Radovan Karadzic, whose previously monolithic security apparatus is at last crumbling. Yesterday morning Mrs Plavsic gave a press conference in her presidency building, where materials illustrating Dr Karadzic's "big brother" methods went on display, including log books and taperecordings of telephone conversations involving Mrs Plavsic. The International Police Task Force, which has been combing the security centre for more evidence of its clandestine operations, will release further details of its findings over the coming days.

SAS troops are known to be active in Banja Luka and are rumoured to be tracking Dr Karadzic's security forces.

Zagreb: Croatian authorities are holding Pero Skopljak, an indicted Bosnian Croat war crimes suspect, in a Zagreb jail and are likely to transfer him to The Hague today, court sources said. Mr Skopljak was indicted in November 1995 for persecuting Bosnian Muslims. He was chief of police in the central Bosnian town of Vitez. *(Reuters)*

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Pilgrims descend on Paris for rendezvous with Pope

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TENS of thousands of young Roman Catholics from 160 countries flocked into Paris yesterday for the 12th World Youth Festival, a week-long celebration that will culminate in a vast open-air Mass celebrated by the Pope at Longchamp race course next weekend.

Days before the pontiff sets foot on French soil, his visit has already prompted an intensive security operation, a bonanza for the capital's soft-drink sellers in the sweltering heat and a series of religious and political rows.

At least 300,000 young people were expected to gather in the city — deserted by most Parisians for the month of August — as the biannual festival kicks off today with an opening ceremony on the Champ de Mars in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower.

The Pope will arrive on Thursday for his second trip to France in less than a year, and his seventh visit since 1980.

Organisers predict that up to half a million faithful will attend the open-air papal Mass on Sunday.

Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Archbishop of Paris, who will preside at today's opening ceremony, has referred to the "religious intensity and enthusiasm everywhere in France". But the anticipated crowds are only a fraction of the millions who turned out during recent youth festivals in Poland and the Philippines, highlighting the problems of the Church in a country that is nominally more than 80 per cent Roman Catholic yet increasingly secular in outlook. Less than one third of the youngsters gathering in Paris this week are French and estimates of the expected crowd size have gradually decreased over the last few days, while the level of controversy has increased.

A growing number of young French Catholics are opposed to the Pope's conservative teachings on birth control, abortion, homosexuality and priestly celibacy. One of the most hotly disputed events during the Pope's four-day trip is a planned homage at the grave of geneticist Jérôme Lejeune, a vigorous opponent of abortion who died in 1994. *Le Monde* gave a warning that the visit could appear to "legitimise anti-abortion commandos".

Hundreds of buses, 38 special trains and dozens of chartered planes have been used to ferry the young pilgrims to Paris, where some have been lodged in the homes of French families, schools or sports halls. The new arrivals have been issued with a "pilgrim's sack", containing maps, travel cards, meal tickets and a prayer book.

Lustiger: sees a religious revival

This year's festival, organised with military precision by retired General Philippe Morillon, formerly head of United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, has emphasised modernity and chic French style.

The thousands of young faithful have been kitted out with green T-shirts bearing the logo of an Eiffel Tower-crucifix, while former punk rock fashion designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, whose other clients include the Duchess of York and Elton John, has produced a range of new "rainbow chasubles" to be worn by more than 5,000 officiating clergy.

This papal visit has not evoked the sort of political passions aroused last year, when the far-right National Front attempted to hijack celebrations of the baptism of Clovis by claiming the Frankish king as a figurehead. But it has inevitably provoked criticism from some religious minorities and those who say the secular French state has become too closely involved with a religious event.

Most notably, Protestants point out that the Pope's final Mass coincides with the anniversary of the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572, when Catholics killed tens of thousands of Huguenots.

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, who is a Protestant, will meet the Pope just before his departure from Orly airport on Sunday, where President Chirac, a Catholic, will greet him on Thursday.

Joke wears thin as power-starved Mir strays off course

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S exasperated cosmonauts last night switched off Mir's central systems, after another computer failure caused the orbiting space station to lose its orientation and most of its power.

In what has become an almost comic routine of mishaps — if the lives of three men and the destiny of Russia's space programme were not at stake — mission control in Moscow reported that plans for essential repair work would be shelved until the latest problem could be solved.

"It is not extraordinary because we have had such situations before," said Vladimir Solovyov, the head of mission control, who like other space officials has become philosophical about the accident-plagued orbiter.

He insisted that the lives of the crew were not in any danger, but admitted that the reason for the computer malfunction was not clear and that the situation was at best "chaotic".

As a result of the computer failure, the spacecraft is now off course and disorientated, so that the solar panels are no longer aligned with the Sun and the power supply has effectively been cut off. To conserve energy all Mir's main systems, apart from life-support, have been shut off until today when a fresh attempt will be made to fix the computer and realign Mir with the Sun.

> ❛ The computer is switched off and there will be no altitude control. We do not know the consequences of this chaotic flight ❜

"Unfortunately, right now the system of station orientation is not operational. The computer will be switched off until morning. There will be no altitude control at all. It will be chaotic. We do not know what the consequences of this chaotic flight will be," he said.

Unfortunately for the three-man crew of two Russian cosmonauts and the British-born Nasa astronaut Michael Foale, the latest setback came only minutes after the crew had successfully docked a *Progress* supply ship with Mir, an operation which had been delayed due to a separate computer problem on Sunday.

The most serious consequence of yesterday's setback is that vital repair work will have to be delayed yet again. The Russian crew members, who arrived on Mir earlier this month, have been trained to conduct dangerous repair work on one of Mir's modules damaged in a collision in June. As a result of that accident, the Spektr module was punctured and had to be abandoned, leading to the loss of about half of Mir's power.

The cosmonauts had planned the first of six space walks to begin tomorrow. They intend to attempt to reconnect Spektr's power cables with Mir and repair the damage to the module's wall.

However, those key repairs will now be delayed by several days at the very least, and there must be growing doubts about the feasibility of such a dangerous operation at a time when basic components on the space station are malfunctioning with such regularity.

Patience must also be running out at Nasa, which helps to subsidise the Mir programme and uses the orbiter to train its astronauts. Yesterday a spokeswoman said that the agency was watching developments "carefully" and that Nasa was not worried about any immediate danger to its astronaut.

However, there is growing pressure in America to cancel any missions to Mir, not least because no scientific work has been carried out for months because the crew has had to repair the spacecraft.

☐ **Houston:** Nasa yesterday postponed by one day plans to bring the space shuttle *Discovery* and six astronauts back to Earth because of fears of fog. In the event a fine day was reported at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. *(AP)*

St Petersburg rooftop sniper kills reformer

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

MIKHAIL MANEVICH, the Deputy Governor of St Petersburg, was assassinated by a sniper yesterday, sending shock waves through Russia's second city, which has been struggling to shake off its reputation for corruption and organised crime.

Witnesses said a rooftop gunman with an automatic rifle and telescopic sight fired eight rounds into the car carrying Mr Manevich and his wife as they drove in rush-hour traffic down Nevsky Prospekt, the city's main thoroughfare. Mr Manevich was hit in the neck and chest and died in hospital. His wife was wounded in the head but was said to be satisfactory.

"It was a brazen attack in broad daylight," a local reporter said. "Whoever wanted him dead, also intended this murder as a message to the city."

While the murder of bankers and businessmen has become common in post-communist Russia, political murders are still rare. The last in St Petersburg, the former Tsarist capital, was that of Sergei Kirov, a Bolshevik leader whose death in 1934 was used by Stalin as the pretext for his purges.

The latest killing will not have such grave consequences for Russia, though the murder will certainly have damaging repercussions for St Petersburg, where the city government has been struggling to wrest power from the Russian mafia.

Manevich: bright and committed reformer

Anatoli Chubais, Russia's powerful Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, said he was shaken by the "despicable murder", but added that the reforms Mr Manevich stood for would continue. "For me, Misha Manevich was not just an official — we have been united by a joint cause and the ties of friendship since our student years.

"Despite the continuing attacks, the position of the reformers' team, of which Mikhail Manevich was a fully fledged member, has remained unchanged," he said. "We will become more determined in our response, regardless of those who stand in our way."

Nevertheless, St Petersburg will be hard pressed to find a replacement. Mr Manevich, 36, was one of two bright, young and committed reformers credited with turning around St Petersburg's fortunes this year and attracting a flood of interest and investment to the city.

As head of St Petersburg's State Property Committee since 1994, he was instrumental in pushing ahead with important economic reforms, including the privatisation of property. He also campaigned constantly for the rule of law to be respected in St Petersburg's notoriously lawless business world. In addition, he was largely responsible for the success of St Petersburg's £200 million Eurobond issue in June.

Police and government officials were in shock yesterday and offered no hint of who might have ordered what experts are sure was a professional contract killing.

However, investigators are likely to concentrate on two areas. It is possible that Mr Manevich angered local business figures in his efforts to charge market prices for the city's property. Also, he may have made enemies among losing bidders in the highly lucrative sell-off of state property — the head of a local property committee near St Petersburg was murdered in similar circumstances two months ago.

Whatever the reasons, St Petersburg will not be able to shake off its reputation as a lawless city, where even the most high-ranking officials are vulnerable to the assassin's bullet. Last year John Hyden, a British lawyer, was shot dead in the city's Nevsky Palace Hotel, less than a block from yesterday's shooting. He was hit by a bullet intended for a local gangland boss.

Kidnapped Russians freed after 100 days

Moscow: Three Russian television journalists were freed after 100 days by Chechen kidnappers yesterday amid signs that the authorities in Grozny may be coming to grips with the current spate of abductions (Richard Beeston writes).

Last night NTV, Russia's only commercial network, announced that its missing crew had arrived back in Moscow. Their release came only hours after a meeting at the Kremlin between President Yeltsin and Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen leader, who agreed to resolve outstanding problems over sovereignty, security and economic co-operation in follow-up talks. The positive atmosphere at the talks and the release of the hostages should raise hopes about other kidnap victims — among them two British aid workers — being set free.

Frigate stands by for urgent island pullout

BY DAVID ADAMS AND GLEN OWEN

EMERGENCY talks were held in London yesterday, with Britain poised to evacuate the Caribbean island of Montserrat after scientists said it could be wiped out by new volcanic eruptions.

Yesterday's talks were held between government officials and by telephone with Frank Savage, the island's Governor, to arrange a voluntary evacuation this week after scientists monitoring the Soufrière Hills volcano detected a new phase in its cycle of eruptions. Experts at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory reported that "the crisis has entered a stage for which there is little precedent" and there was the chance of a "massive, cataclysmic-intensive eruption".

The Government had said that evacuation of the British dependency was a last resort and placed emphasis on its £41 million aid programme for the north of the island. But yesterday George Foulkes, the International Development Minister, agreed that the report had forced its hand. "Over the past 24 hours the volcano has become much more dangerous," he said. "As a result, we have agreed to the voluntary partial evacuation." The first islanders are expected to leave this week.

According to officials in Montserrat, evacuation plans are in place and could be executed swiftly. The plans, known as Operation Exodus, centre on the British frigate *HMS Liverpool* which is patrolling near Montserrat.

A codeword from the *Liverpool* would divert merchant shipping in the area to help the evacuation. The US Government is also said to have offered troop landing craft to ferry people to the ships. Residents would be brought to an emergency jetty at Little Bay at the "safe" north end of the island, where they would be housed in a tent city until the ships arrived. The evacuees would then be taken to hotels in Antigua, Guadeloupe and St Kitts-Nevis until a longer-term arrangement could be made.

Ash belches into the atmosphere during a recent eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano. Scientists now say that a new eruption could wipe out Montserrat

More than 4,000 of Montserrat's original population of 11,000 remain in the island, most of them huddled in 12 square miles of shelters in the north. The scientists, emphasising what they call "the potential for explosivity", made clear that the remaining residents are vulnerable to fierce eruptions: "People in the northern zone should seek shelter under a strong roof."

Of those who remain, about 1,500 people have been forced to seek refuge in overcrowded shelters where they depend on the Government for food coupons and rations of vegetables, tinned beef and rice.

Dr Richard Herd, a vulcanologist in the island, said: "The situation is very serious. Recent eruptions have pointed up that the volcano may be capable of sustaining a very much larger explosion."

As word of the evacuation plan spread, residents packed their bags. Many sought shelter in a partly completed school complex in the north.

The latest developments call into question the island's long-term viability. Ominously, the volcano observatory report says that "lateral surges" of volcanic material are increasingly likely. "It is almost certain they would be lethal to anyone in the way," scientists said.

WORLD SUMMARY

Ageing is 'treatable disease'

Washington: The secret for a longer life is simply to assume longevity, Dr Ronald Klatz, president of the American Academy of Anti-Ageing, said yesterday (Tom Rhodes writes). Despite average life spans of 72 years for men and 78 for women, people should make plans to live far longer. Dr Klatz believes ageing is a treatable disease.

Beef seized

Hamburg: Sixty tonnes of beef seized in Germany had been imported from Britain in violation of an EU export ban because of mad cow disease, according to a customs spokesman. *(AFP)*

Kenya toll rises

Mombasa: The death toll here rose to at least 35 in five days with the machete killing of two men. President Moi of Kenya blamed opposition leaders for fanning pre-election tribal hatred. *(Reuters)*

Guerrilla mercy

Lima: Twenty-nine Peruvian oil workers held in the jungle by Maoist Shining Path guerrillas were released unharmed after the rebels stole food, medicines and equipment, officials said. *(Reuters)*

Iraqi welcome

Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein issued orders allowing Iranians into Iraq to visit the country's religious shrines for the first time since the start of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War. *(AP)*

Storms shut port

Santiago: Storms forced the closure of a sixth port, Coquimbo, blocked the Pan-American highway and caused hundreds to flee their flooded homes, the Chilean authorities said. *(Reuters)*

Bigger bite

Hoover, Alabama: Jeff Bolling, who claims he found a condom in a Big Mac, is suing McDonald's for damages, saying he became "violently ill and suffered extreme emotional distress". *(AP)*

Spin doctors smooth Clintons' holiday path

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

EVEN the Clinton family holiday became a focus for White House spin doctors yesterday as the President arrived for a three-week stay in Martha's Vineyard, the East Coast playground for America's liberal elite.

No longer facing the requirements of re-election and last year's populist summer destination of Wyoming, Mr Clinton was said initially to have opted for the golf courses and dinner parties of the Vineyard this year. After criticism of the decision, however, including controversy over the owner of the farm at which the family is lodging, aides said yesterday that Hillary Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, had made the final selection.

"He wanted Jackson Hole in the Grand Tetons, but was outvoted," one aide said.

Mr Clinton can have suffered little arm-twisting: he has spent two previous summer holidays on the island off Cape Cod instead of in retreats favoured by the masses. Only in less popular times, in 1995 and last year, had the Clintons chosen the heartlands of the West. A successful election behind him, the President has been free to return to the place where he once sipped cocktails with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, dined with Nobel laureates and Hollywood stars and basked in the adulation of the island's faithful Democrats.

The party season begins in earnest today when he celebrates his 51st birthday at the home of Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, the actors. If the past is precedent, the Clintons will spend much of their time being entertained long into the night.

They are expected to visit Katharine Graham, publisher of *The Washington Post*, James Taylor and Carly Simon, the singers, and Vernon Jordan, the lawyer and presidential confidant.

A skeleton White House staff is accompanying the family, including Bruce Lindsey, the ubiquitous deputy counsel and card-playing friend of the President. He and a clutch of National Security advisers will continue to monitor urgent matters such as the UPS strike and the Middle East peace process.

But the point of the holiday, aides said, was relaxation for all. It is not only the longest holiday the Clintons have taken while in office, but the final family gathering before Chelsea enrols at Stanford University next month. The Secret Service agents housed near the family's borrowed farmhouse have been ordered to maintain a discreet distance at all times while Mr Clinton goes crabbing and plays golf and his wife and daughter relax in the sunshine.

Aides have continued to play down a conflict of interest involving the owner of their secluded home. The White House said that Richard Friedman, a Democratic contributor who is seeking government approval for a controversial hotel project in Boston, need not be excluded from offering hospitality to the President.

The local population, which had affected concern over extra traffic, crowds and security measures, appeared delighted by the Clintons' arrival.

Insurer argues Daisy the cow was guiltless of Chicago fire

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN AMATEUR historian from Chicago has challenged a cherished myth of American history by arguing that the great fire that destroyed the city in 1871 was not caused by a truculent cow called Daisy, reputed to have kicked a lantern on to some hay as it was being milked in a barn at night by its Irish owner, Catherine O'Leary.

Instead the blaze that destroyed a third of Chicago on October 8, 1871, killing 300 people and rendering 100,000 homeless, was almost certainly set off by Daniel "Peg Leg" Sullivan, a one-legged horse-cart driver who often slipped into Mrs O'Leary's barn for a quiet smoke of his pipe.

The new thesis is by Richard Bales, an employee of the Chicago Title Insurance Company who has pored over the records of the Chicago Historical Society, as well as those of his own firm, which handled most of the insurance claims.

According to Mr Bales, Mrs O'Leary could not have started the fire because she was in bed at the time. He argues that "Peg Leg" was likely to have been the culprit for several reasons and that his testimony to police at the time was riddled with inconsistencies. For example, he claimed to have seen the fire break out while he was standing some distance away. This would simply not have been possible, since records show that several tall buildings would have blocked his view.

Mrs O'Leary's protests that she was asleep fell on deaf ears and she was forced to leave town with her family.

Australia mourns loss of a 'great warrior'

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BURNUM BURNUM, the Aboriginal activist who planted an Aboriginal flag on top on the white cliffs of Dover to claim Britain for his people, has died of a heart attack in Australia at the age of 61. He had battled with heart trouble, which had been aggravated by diabetes.

A long-standing campaigner for Aboriginal rights, Burnum Burnum's name nevertheless became synonymous with the cause as a result of his dramatic gesture in 1988 — the year of Australia's bicentenary — when he declared he wished to bring no harm to Britain's native people but sought a fresh start, or "Kompartoo", to Aboriginal-Anglo relations.

Australian leaders from all sides of the political spectrum paid tribute to him yesterday. John Howard, the Prime Minister, said: "He was a very gracious man and very strongly committed to the welfare of Aboriginal Australians."

Calling his death a terrible loss to the Australian and Aboriginal community, John Delaney, the New South Wales Commissioner of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, said: "Burnum Burnum will be remembered by all who knew him for his stately presence and his passion for his people. Australia can ill afford to lose an identity such as Burnum Burnum."

A member of the "stolen generation" of Aborigines taken from their families into government welfare, Burnum Burnum grew up as Harry Penrith but later took the name of his great-grandfather, meaning "great warrior", to better express his sense of Aboriginality. He spent his early childhood in the United Aborigines Mission's children's home before becoming one of the first Aborigines to matriculate from high school.

He then studied law at the University of Tasmania for three years but left, fearing he was turning into an Englishman. Burnum Burnum became a central figure in the Aboriginal political movement, although his unorthodox style of protest often put him at odds with other Aboriginal activists, most recently with his controversial decision to seek the endorsement of the conservative Liberal Party to enter the Australian Senate.

He was also, however, known for his artistic and story-telling abilities and in his later years spent much of his time sharing his knowledge and culture with children throughout Australia. Senator John Herron, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, said: "Burnum Burnum worked tirelessly for reconciliation between black and white and will be remembered with affection throughout Australia — particularly by the many school children whom he held enthralled over the years with his telling of stories."

One of his last initiatives was to seek a national meeting of Aboriginal elders which he hoped would show the world how few Australian Aborigines live past the age of 55.

JAY TOWN / REUTERS

Burnum Burnum, the Aboriginal activist who has died in Australia aged 61. He once planted an Aboriginal flag on Dover's white cliffs to make a political point

Israel denies blame as Sidon shelling kills six

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIGHTING flared in Lebanon yesterday, killing nine civilians on Israel's only active border front line, as Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, made a conciliatory gesture to the Palestinians by announcing that he would release withheld tax funds.

Six civilians were killed and 34 wounded, many seriously, in the shelling of the southern port city of Sidon. The Israeli Army said that forces under the command of Antoine Lahd, the pro-Israeli militia leader, were behind the attack.

Mr Lahd commands the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in an Israeli-held occupation zone and a militia force in the Jezzine area just outside the zone. The Israeli Army blamed the second group, a source saying: "The SLA is backed by Israel, whereas the people who fired are not backed by Israel."

Israeli military sources said that Mr Lahd's men were apparently avenging the death of three Lebanese youths killed in a Jezzine explosion hours earlier. The Israeli Army said Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed "Party of God", carried out that attack.

It was the first time that Sidon, 25 miles south of Beirut, faced shelling since Israel launched a major military offensive in April 1996. The move came after an increase in attacks on the Jezzine area. In all, 16 shells landed in Sidon and its suburbs.

Soon after the shelling ended, six Katyusha rockets struck Jezzine. An hour later, fire more than Marjayoun in south Lebanon, where Israeli forces in Lebanon and the SLA maintain their headquarters. No casualties were reported.

Security sources said that the Lebanese Army had retaliated against the Sidon shelling with artillery fire on SLA positions in Jezzine.

In his announcement, Mr Netanyahu said that he would release immediately one third of the $70 million in tax revenues withheld after the double suicide bombing in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market last month. The gesture came after the Palestinian Authority agreed to help in the investigation of the bombings, and as a reward for the sentencing of three Palestinian car thieves who murdered a Jerusalem taxi driver.

Mr Netanyahu had also come under heavy pressure from the United States Administration to lift some of the punitive measures. A US State Department spokesman had described the withholding of tax in particular as "counter-productive".

But the Israeli leader insisted that the transfer of some of the funds was only "a partial step" and a further easing of sanctions would depend on whether Palestinians could prove they were sincere about fighting terrorism.

At the weekend, Mr Arafat gave a warning for the first time that Palestinians were ready to abandon the peace accords with the Jewish state if Israel continued pushing them too far with sanctions and harsh security measures.

☐ **Assault charges:** Three Israeli paramilitary border policemen were charged yesterday with kidnapping and assaulting two Palestinians this month. *(Reuters)*

Lee: "no longer the opening batsman"

Lee fails to open libel case

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE'S senior minister, Lee Kuan Yew, failed to appear as the first witness in a libel case brought against an opposition leader yesterday.

George Carman, QC, a top British libel lawyer, is conducting the defence in a case seen as crucial for the viability of the political Opposition.

Instead of being first witness against J.B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, Mr Lee, architect of modern Singapore and its anti-liberalism, was switched to last. Mr Carman appealed to the court to allow Mr Lee to testify second after Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister. Mr Carman, whose application to represent Mr Jeyaretnam was unsuccessfully resisted by Mr Lee, said: "Suddenly, 48 hours after my admission and without any rational explanation, Lee Kuan Yew is no longer opening batsman."

Mr K. Shanmugam, for Mr Goh, said Mr Carman should have sought leave to appeal to have Mr Lee take the stand first.

A total of 13 government politicians are testifying in 11 suits brought against Mr Jeyaretnam. His predicament arose during polls last year after his colleague, Tang Liang Hong, was described by Mr Goh and senior politicians of being anti-Christian and anti-English education. Mr Tang complained to police.

At a rally, Mr Jeyaretnam said: "And finally Mr Tang Liang Hong has just placed before me two reports he has made to the police against, you know who, Mr Goh Chok Tong and his group." These words, according to Thomas Shields, QC, hired to counter Mr Carman, are central because they infer that the plaintiffs had committed a criminal act.

Ranariddh forces cling to last base

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

PRINCE Norodom Ranariddh, the ousted Cambodian First Prime Minister, said yesterday that forces of his rival, Hun Sen, had suffered severe losses in fighting in northwest Cambodia, where the Prince's troops are defending their last stronghold.

Prince Ranariddh, who is visiting the Philippines to rally international support against Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister, who toppled him in a coup last month, said he had spoken to General Nhiek Bun Chhay, the chief of his forces, by telephone before meeting President Ramos of the Philippines. "I have been advised by General Bun Chhay. He told me Hun Sen's forces lost a lot of people" in fighting at O'Smach, near the Thai-Cambodian border, the Prince said.

He said Khmer Rouge guerrillas had been integrated into the forces loyal to him on Saturday and no longer considered themselves to be Khmer Rouge.

His alliance with the Khmer Rouge has not been well received by the Association of South East Asian Nations — the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos and Burma — or the United States, which hold the guerrilla group responsible for the massacre of two million Cambodians in the 1970s.

The Prince was on the last leg of a four-nation Asean tour to plead for international efforts in his struggle against Hun Sen, who seized power in a weekend of heavy fighting in Phnom Penh in early July.

The Prince held talks with President Ramos yesterday. The President advised him to abandon his armed campaign against Hun Sen and take part in elections in May. He reiterated the offer for the Philippines and Asean to assist in ensuring the elections were free and fair.

The Prince said he told the President he could not have a unilateral ceasefire and repeated a call for a general ceasefire. Hun Sen has issued a warrant for his arrest, accusing him of illegally importing arms and taking Khmer Rouge guerrillas into the capital — a charge the Prince denies.

☐ **P'ong, Cambodia:** The steady advance of Hun Sen's better-equipped troops has been halted as the royalists hold mine-ringed high ground protecting their last main stronghold.

With nowhere left to run, the resistance is making its first determined stand at O'Smach, aided by a virtually impregnable mountain. Hun Sen's artillery has not moved forward for three days. *(AP)*

US drug company applies to sell children Prozac

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

ELI LILLEY, the manufacturer of Prozac, has applied to the federal Food and Drug Administration for approval to sell the popular antidepressant drug to children.

The application has sparked alarm among physicians' and parents' groups, which argue that little reliable research has been conducted into the effects of antidepressants on a growing young body. Most studies have focused on their impact on adults. Even the label on Prozac's packet says: "Safety and effectiveness in paediatric patients have not been established."

Strictly speaking, Eli Lilley has no need to apply for an FDA "green light". The federal agency approved the drug for general sale ten years ago, leaving individual doctors with the discretion to decide whether to prescribe Prozac to children. Last year alone, more than 600,000 American minors aged between six and 18 were prescribed Prozac, Zoloft or Paxil, the three leading selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs).

Prozac is occasionally used for children in Britain in cases of severe depression. Doctors can prescribe it on their own authority, although, like other antidepressants, it is not recommended for children.

Many American doctors fear that specific drug administration approval of Prozac for children would be used by Eli Lilley as the basis of a new, child-centred marketing campaign. The company already sells an enticing peppermint-flavoured Prozac and a recent advertising campaign appears designed to make the drug more attractive for use on children. The advertisements use children's artwork. Arianna Huffington, the influential columnist, wrote recently: "Exit Joe Camel. Enter Joe Prozac."

Peter Breggin, a Maryland psychiatrist who is director of the state's Centre for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology, said: "I believe these advertisements are a conscious attempt to enter the kids' market. They're hoping parents will say, 'Oh, my child is unhappy, maybe he needs Prozac'."

Concern is growing in America over the extent of the "drug 'em if they're difficult" attitude of doctors, parents and teachers. Millions of American children already take antidepressants other than SSRIs, usually for periods of many years.

☐ **Hazards:** Despite worrying stories in the lay press, the five HT re-uptake inhibitors, the group of drugs which includes Prozac, have proved safer than earlier antidepressants (Dr Thomas Stuttaford writes). The 5HT re-uptake inhibitors do not represent such a hazard to the cardio-vascular system, are not so lethal in overdosage and have fewer side-effects.

Shanghai storm fears

Shanghai: Typhoon Winnie reached the Chinese mainland late yesterday and was approaching Shanghai after leaving 24 dead in Taiwan, the Shanghai Meteorological Bureau said.

The typhoon crossed the coast at Wenling, about 175 miles south of Shanghai. It then moved northwest as its winds dropped to 105.6ft a second in coastal areas, compared with 132ft a second earlier. The typhoon has been downgraded to a tropical storm, the bureau said. The storm is expected to pass Shanghai early today. It is expected to be the worst storm to hit China's largest city in 90 years. However, residents said that people were going about their business despite heavy rain and strong winds.

Earlier, China had issued a storm alert for Shanghai and parts of the southeast as the approaching typhoon flooded streets with torrential rains and pounded the shores with towering waves. *(AFP)*

The boy lost in a foreign country

Robert Miles's parents are convinced that a vaccine is responsible for damaging him. **Anjana Ahuja** reports

Robert Miles runs up the stone steps to his house, ignores his mother and her visitor (me) and shoots into the living room. Oblivious to the antiques and furniture dotted around the room, the little blond boy pulls from his satchel a fairy cake topped with lurid green icing, and starts cramming it into his mouth. Crumbs fly everywhere.

Robert is eight, but possesses the social skills of a child half his age. He comes to stare at me so intently that our noses almost touch: there is no flicker of recognition that his parents are talking to him; he seems almost hyperactive in the way he speeds around the room, laughing. During this display of exuberance, he does not utter a single, coherent word.

Robert was given the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine when he was 14 months old: the date, December 5, 1989, is engraved on his father's memory. "Robert was completely normal beforehand," says Richard Miles, 41, a fine arts and antiques dealer. "He was walking quite well, and knew a few words. Shortly after the vaccine, he seemed off-balance. He began to knock into furniture, stopped talking and started to withdraw."

Robert's parents are convinced that the MMR vaccine, which has been routinely administered to infants since 1988, is directly responsible for damaging their child, who is now regarded by the local education authority as autistic. (In fact, the vaccine given to Robert was withdrawn in 1992 because the mumps part was found to contain a mild meningitis virus.)

Robert soon retreated into a world of silence. "It was very weird," recalls his mother Sarah, 40, who gave up running a textiles company to look after him. "He used to be able to say short words like shoes, sock and drink. Then he suddenly fell silent. I began to wonder whether I had dreamt him saying these words. He felt like an alien." Then Sarah saw a magazine article about another child whose onset of autism seemed to coincide with receiving the MMR vaccine. "I read it and thought, that's us."

They are not a lone voice. Five medical studies to be published later this year appear to link the MMR and MR (measles and rubella) vaccine to an increased risk of autism and Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammatory disease of the intestines. One of the authors of the studies, Dr Andrew Wakefield, from the Royal Free Hospital in London, told the medical magazine *Pulse* that the explosion of cases of Crohn's disease coincides exactly with the introduction of measles vaccinations in the Sixties.

> 'It was as if he had the world's problems on his shoulders'

He published similar criticisms two years ago: the then Chief Medical Officer, Kenneth Calman, rejected them. The Department of Health has always maintained that the chances of an adverse reaction is one in a million. Richard says: "The Government said there was no link between CJD and BSE, but that didn't stop them from taking action."

Dr Wakefield, who gets five cases a week of children whose autism or Crohn's disease appears to be triggered by the MMR vaccine, says he would like to see separate vaccinations for each condition. He says his work will lead to a "profound rethink" on vaccination policy.

Many of the affected children, including Robert, are having their cases documented by Richard Barr, a solicitor in Norfolk, in the hope that a legal challenge can be mounted against the vaccine manufacturers. More than 800 families have come forward. As well as autism and Crohn's disease, other complaints include arthritis and epilepsy.

Seeing their child fall silent was not the only shock for Richard and Sarah, who occupy a three-storey house in one of Hammersmith's leafiest squares with Robert and their two other children, Kate, 11, and Henry, 6. Several months after withdrawing, Robert started banging his head against walls. Sarah recalls: "He had become a troubled child. It was as if he had the world's problems on his shoulders. He also seemed very drowsy."

A visit to the doctor uncovered only glue ear, a build-up of fluid, which impairs hearing. The problem was rectified but the head-banging continued. He was expelled from nursery school for striking out at classmates and making animal noises.

It was not until Robert was given intensive speech therapy in 1991 that he changed. Sarah remembers it well: "The head-banging stopped. It was like switching a light back on." The first diagnosis of late-onset autism came the following year. Robert now attends Queensmill, a school in Hurlingham for autistic children. The school has said that Robert is not classically autistic. Despite this encouraging diagnosis, the upstairs rooms remain locked to stop him climbing out of the windows.

Sarah and Richard show nothing but patience and devotion towards their son. They never come across as bitter, and, to judge from their lifestyle, money is not the reason that they are pursuing the matter. Richard sees a wider issue: "We are immunising generations of children with a triple live vaccine, and we know very little about its long-term effects. That is terrifying. We are not anti-vaccine but when something goes wrong, it should be investigated."

The turning point could come in the courtroom. Mr Barr has been granted legal aid to research cases of alleged vaccine damage across the country. To date, 865 families have contacted him. Mr Barr, who has worked closely with Dr Wakefield, aims to bring his first case to court this year.

"Over the past two years we have investigated 80 children, and the pattern is remarkably consistent," Mr Barr says. "We have detailed medical records and home videos to show that all these children were developing normally until they had the vaccine." The thorniest issue is trying to prove that the children were not born autistic, but developed similar symptoms as a direct result of their jabs.

"What clinches it for us is that the children are developing very odd behaviour, such as eating habits. One child eats wallpaper, another tries to eat plaster off the wall, and some have taken to eating dirt off the floor. It is extremely distressing." Another feature, he adds, is that the children stop sleeping properly, stop saying words, and lose the ability to regulate body temperature.

Whether the case is a success or not, children like Robert face an uncertain future. A fortnight ago, Robert was examined by a paediatrician at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. The report records that the diagnosis of autism is "not appropriate". He is judged to have a severe language problem, which may or may not be cured through intensive language therapy. Until then, the report movingly concludes: "He is abroad in a foreign country with no one to guide him."

PETER TRIEVNOR

Richard Miles and Robert: "Shortly after the vaccine, he seemed off-balance. He began to knock into furniture, stopped talking and started to withdraw"

WHAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION FAILS TO TELL YOU

MOST doctors fervently believe that vaccines are one of medical science's greatest success stories, responsible for wiping out many deadly infectious diseases of the past century. So steadfast is this faith that it prevents doctors from acknowledging evidence demonstrating ineffectiveness, adverse reactions and cases of a disease in children who have been vaccinated against it.

In the 1994 UK campaign to inoculate all British children from five to 16 with the measles, mumps and rubella jab, the Department of Health assured parents that side-effects to booster jabs were very unlikely after being "carefully studied by looking at large numbers of children in the United States".

In fact, the evidence on which this claim was based was rather more meagre. Before the campaign the DoH received a fax from officials at the US National Immunisation Programme explaining that the only evidence that boosters were safer was based on questionnaires sent to college students receiving the boosters.

What is worse, the UK's Public Health Laboratory Service completed a study before the campaign began, demonstrating that children given the measles, mumps and rubella jab were *three times* more likely to suffer from convulsions than those who didn't receive it. Two thirds of the cases of seizures were due to the measles component alone.

Its findings were supported by a similar study carried out in America by the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) at about the same time. The CDC monitored the progress of 500,000 children across America, tapping into computerised records to discover adverse reactions to the two triple vaccines, the MMR and DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus). It identified 34 major side-effects to the jabs, ranging from asthma, blood disorders, infectious diseases, diabetes and neurological disorders, including meningitis, polio and hearing loss.

BUT IT was the incidence of seizure that leapt off the graph. The rate increased three times above the norm within the first day of a child receiving the DPT shot, and rose 2.7 times within four to seven days of a child being given the MMR shot, increasing to 3.3 times within eight to 14 days.

The success of vaccination is based entirely on assumption. Improved sanitation and hygiene, housing, better nutrition and isolation procedures have occurred at the same time that vaccines have been introduced.

The US Government notes that during the plague years of polio, 20,000 to 30,000 cases a year occurred in America, compared with 20 to 30 cases a year today. Nevertheless, Dr Bernard Greenberg, head of the department of biostatistics of the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, has said that polio *increased* by 50 per cent between 1957 and 1958 and 80 per cent from 1958 to 1959, after the introduction of mass immunisation.

Despite the fact that the UK has had the MMR vaccine in place since 1988, and enjoys a high coverage among toddlers, cases of measles recently were going up by nearly one fourth.

The zeal behind the measles campaign was founded on the belief that measles can be a life-threatening condition. In America in 1990, at the height of a measles epidemic when 27,000 cases were reported, 89 died. But many deaths occurred among children of low-income families where poor nutrition played a part, as did failure to treat complications. In Africa, where children are markedly Vitamin A deficient, measles does kill. However, as study after study demonstrates, even Third World children with adequate stores of vitamin A or those given vitamin A supplementation are likely to survive.

LYNNE MCTAGGART

● *Lynne McTaggart is author of* What Doctors Don't Tell You *(Thorsons, £8.99), and editor of a newsletter of the same name.*

Anxious, depressed, suicidal — and still only a child

A quarter of Britain's children cannot cope with life's stresses, writes **Sue Corrigan**

A generation ago, it was very rare for children to have a psychiatric illness or disorder diagnosed. Severe anxiety, agitation, depression and suicidal tendencies were confined to adolescence and adulthood. Children, at least, were thought to be immune.

No longer, however. Over the past 20 years, psychiatric, emotional and serious behavioural disorders have begun to invade childhood, causing suffering and distress in children as young as eight.

Peter Wilson, a child psychotherapist and director of the children's mental health charity Young Minds, says there is now clear evidence that rates of criminal behaviour, violence, suicide, drug abuse and anorexia are increasing among children and adolescents under 16.

The fundamental cause, he suggests, is the rapid rate of technological change in society over the past 30 to 40 years, affecting all aspects of the way we live — employment patterns, educational pressures and family structures are all being greatly altered. "Kids are exposed to so much more information, so much more complexity," he says. "Growing up has perhaps never been harder or more confusing."

The disastrous effect on many vulnerable children and adolescents in Britain is the subject of a documentary to be shown on Channel 4 on Sunday night. *The Madness of Children* focuses on three disturbed youngsters receiving treatment in an adolescent psychiatric unit in Manchester. One, Jody, tried to hang herself in a local hospital while waiting for a place in the 15-bed unit — the only inpatient facility serving half a million children and teenagers in the North East.

The programme claims that while there are more than 48,000 psychiatric beds in Britain, only 600 are available for those under 18, half the number provided just seven years ago. Once a week, the staff of the Manchester unit meet to decide which of the emergency referrals received in the past week are urgent enough to warrant admission to the one or two beds usually available. At one such meeting, four of the seven children under discussion were already being treated with anti-psychotic or antidepressant drugs in the community.

Peter Wilson and other mental health workers say service provision for mentally ill and emotionally disturbed children is exceedingly patchy, with some areas, such as London, well served, but others very deficient.

"With the way the health service has been reorganised over the past seven years or so, it has been left to local authorities and local purchasers to make decisions as to their priorities," Mr Wilson says. "Some clearly attach less priority to child and adolescent mental health services than others."

A London-based child psychiatrist, Dr Philip Graham, agrees that inpatient facilities for children and adolescents have been reduced overall, but says the figures also reflect more efficient use of beds, with more admissions for shorter periods. He says most professionals see significant benefits in shorter admission periods, with medications now used more commonly to treat psychiatric and emotional problems among adolescents, though these are still very infrequently prescribed for children.

Both Mr Wilson and Dr Graham say there is no evidence of any increase in schizophrenia among children or young teenagers, as this is a condition thought only to emerge once the brain has reached a certain point of maturation.

"We are not seeing any significant increase in the number of children who would be classified clinically as mentally ill," Mr Wilson points out. "What we are seeing are increasing numbers of children suffering from what would be termed severe states of turmoil, agitation and disequilibrium.

"They are suffering from extreme worry about themselves and their families, manifesting in depression, extremely disruptive behaviour, violence against either themselves or others, drug abuse and attempted suicide.

"Many of these children mutilate themselves with knives or razors, to try to transform the mental pain they are suffering into physical pain. Anorexia is another manifestation of this desire to hurt and damage oneself. It is also often an attempt to stave off the changes that come about during puberty, to stay a child, to ward off all the terrible stresses associated with growing up."

Mr Wilson says the impact on children of changes in family structures over the past 30 or so years cannot be overestimated.

"Children are undoubtedly growing up in a less stable, clearly structured environment," he said. "With the increasing incidence of divorce, sole parenting and reformed families, there is less secure grounding in family life than there once was."

But, he adds: "Despite all the upheavals of recent decades, most children are growing up OK, and coping quite well. Perhaps three quarters are doing fine. But around one quarter aren't. We need to provide good support services for these more vulnerable children, backing up families with a whole range of community services, such as health visitors, counsellors and GPs sensitive to potential problem areas."

In the absence of adequate support services, however, many doctors are increasingly resorting to prescribing drugs to help desperate parents to cope with their children's violent and disruptive behaviour. Mental health professionals are concerned by this trend, arguing that little is known about the long-term effects of anti-psychotic and antidepressant drugs on children under 16.

They fear that Britain will follow the example of the United States, where more than 400,000 children are now taking Prozac, an antidepressant. *The Madness of Children* points out that there are no guidelines for treating children and adolescents with psychiatric drugs in the UK, and says the Department of Health cannot give figures on their use among British children.

"No child should be treated with medication alone," Mr Wilson insists. "They must always receive some form of therapy — group therapy, psychotherapy, music therapy, whatever. The fundamental cause of the problems these children suffer is a breakdown in their relationship with others, and the causes must be identified if the problem is to be addressed satisfactorily."

● The Madness of Children *will be shown on Channel 4 on Sunday at 7.30pm*

BUBBLES: DAVID ROBINSON

Growing up has never been harder, nor more confusing

Chilling out at Motel California

It's the first summer of their adult lives and they're spending it round a pool hoping to break into MTV. **Giles Whittell** meets California's generation extras

ROBERT GALLAGHER

Athena Kinner introduced herself to several million potential boyfriends on MTV — surprisingly, she received only 40 replies — and has appeared in *Baywatch*

You gotta love this job, as the lifeguards say. My assignment was to meet and interview people such as Athena Kinner, who, for the past few weeks, have been reclining around a swimming pool on a cliff overlooking the Pacific, acting as extras for 500 hours of summer programming being produced there for the pop video network MTV.

Athena, aged 18, is pleasantly unaffected by the standards of most Californian bombshells her age. "I'm a beach girl," she says. "That describes me."

Jessica, in tight leopardskin, has more of a way with words: "She's a peach," she says of her friend. "And I'm a mango."

All the same, it was Athena whose striking curves and sunny disposition got her chosen for an on-camera "classified" — a chance to introduce herself to potential boyfriends from among MTV's several million viewers. Surprisingly, she received only 40 replies. Less surprisingly, it turns out that she has already appeared on an episode of *Baywatch*.

> 'I want to be discovered. Besides, what else would we do?'

The set of *Baywatch* has much in common with the converted marine theme park half an hour south of Los Angeles that MTV calls its "Motel California". Both have the sea near by, the sun almost always overhead, plenty of lithe bodies in swimsuits and much expensive camera equipment.

The difference is that the motel swarms with up to 100 extras a day, none of them is paid, and there is no semblance of a plot in what unfolds here. Everyone has turned up for the sheer fun of being human wallpaper.

To wit, Mary Walker, 18, who lives round the corner and will be starting college in LA this autumn. "We were bored, we came down and we stayed," she says, hanging out with friends near the hot tub. They all have their backs to the ocean.

Did they come to meet new people, or to be on television?

"TV," says Melissa Coleto without hesitation. Also 18 and from near by, she plans to study architecture in Atlanta but really hopes to be an actress.

"I want to be discovered," she admits. "Besides, what else would we do?"

Well, Melissa, since you ask, this is that magical summer when you are legally an adult for the first time, with a life ahead of you and a planet to discover. You presumably have a passport. You have been well educated at a private high school in Rancho Palos Verdes, recently found to be the richest neighbourood bar none in the United States. You have a college place waiting for you, and, presumably, some intellectual curiosity to have earned it.

I hate to sound old-fashioned, especially on an MTV set, but couldn't you be working your way round the world teaching English as a second language? Or enrolled in a summer course in jazz ballet or method acting or Central Asian architecture? You could try borrowing some money from your parents for an Alaskan wildlife safari, or you might even — perish the worthy thought — help out at a remedial learning centre for immigrant children in South Central.

Melissa does plan to travel, bless her. She's going on a cruise in the eastern Caribbean with her family. Likewise John Sulentor — same age, same stage. He'll be spending a week with his parents in northern California at a resort called Sea Ranch before starting at the private and very expensive University of Southern California.

MTV has unwittingly given its name to the MTV generation, also known to pop sociologists as Generation X. This expanding demographic wedge of twentysomethings and post-adolescents has not been treated kindly by the press.

Exasperated pundits twice their age have depicted them as unkempt, uninspired, grumpy, spoilt, idle — or all five. They have far too much time on their hands, the thinking goes, and much too little gumption.

In fairness to the extras at Motel California, they are far from unkempt. They are, if anything, obsessed by their appearance. And in fairness to everyone else, they are a self-selecting group, who happen to like tanning themselves and loitering for the chance of a few seconds of fame. That is the good news.

The bad news is that for everyone who made the trek to Rancho Palos Verdes, there are untold thousands more doing the only more supine thing imaginable — watching them on telly.

Twenty feet above the swimming pool (which was specially installed by MTV for an amount that it prefers not to reveal) Ramon, Alex, Raul, Hector and Jason are staring glumly down at the bikini crowd from a balcony. They are all from Pasadena City College, on LA's hard-boiled east side, all with gang-style buzz cuts, all here to check out the female talent: the "biggo booties", as Raul says ominously. "It's not fun, but it's cool."

Down on a mezzanine, also surveying the pool scene, a beautiful political science student from Orange County responds tolerantly to a very square question about her favourite authors. "I'm not a reading person," she murmurs. "It's boring."

The executive producer at this sun-drenched palace of pop is Paul Cockerill, an unflappable 37-year-old pro with a cellphone and greying hair. "A lot of these kids have great personalities," he says, reclining in a sofa opposite the motel's fake reception. "It's such a joy to come here and find real honest-to-goodness people walking in off the street and performing to a T. Good things can happen here."

With respect to Mr Cockerill and his extras, an outsider at Motel California can easily feel he or she has wandered into a summer camp for epsilon semi-morons, as Aldous Huxley called the dopiest creatures of his *Brave New World*. Seldom in the field of human narcissism can so many have lounged around for so long doing so little so contentedly.

The dumbing-down affects everyone. Vanessa Tyson is on a scholarship to Princeton, where she is president of the "multi-ethnic student alliance" and "completely convinced I'm going to save America". Yet MTV appears to have other plans for her. She was so radiant when chosen to introduce a song for a regular slot called *Popular Videos People Prefer* that Mr Cockerill asked if she'd ever thought of doing this for a living. An interview has been set up for her at the network's New York headquarters in September, and Vanessa is delighted. "This stuff just seems to happen to me," she beams.

There are lilos in the pool, unused. There's a volleyball court, empty. There is a fabulous ocean 50ft away, ignored. There are multifarious ethnic groups here but — today at any rate — they do not mix.

As the sun heads down for its nightly bathe in the Pacific, six New Zealanders from a band called OMC amble over to their microphones under the gazebo to do a sound check. Producer types in wrap-around shades hustle the cutest girls into a jiggling bevvy beside the stage. (Athena is front and centre.) After four hours of nothing, there is suddenly an air of palpable excitement. Bikinis are adjusted. Water is splashed on nut-brown thighs to achieve that glistening look so popular in magazines. At last OMC performs their song, called *How Bizarre*. As they do so, a whale surfaces, twice, amazingly close to the foot of the cliff. No one seems to notice. It is bizarre indeed.

The secret of being a good stepmother

Pierce Brosnan's grown-up children are making him keep his promise never to remarry. But as **Serena Allott** discovered, adult stepchildren can be a joy

I was five years into my life as a stepmother when I felt I'd finally made the grade. It was a hot afternoon two summers ago when my stepdaughter, then 19, rang to say she had just acquired something that she had to show me. It was something she had wanted for ages but, having got it, she wasn't sure. Could she come over?

Twenty minutes later she strode into my kitchen, dropped her jeans and, peeling a plaster off one perfect golden buttock, revealed what, beneath the blood and iodine, I could just make out as a tattoo. "You're the first person to see it," she panted. "Tell me, honestly, what do you think?"

I remember the moment as one of pure joy. In my bank of perfect memories it rides almost as high as the birth of my second son, who had the grace to slip into this world extremely quickly, having caused me very little pain.

Camilla had chosen to show me first (her mother was, in fact, abroad, but she had friends by the score). That proved, I felt, that somewhere along the line I must have done something right.

I hadn't, as it happened, started from a position of wrong, at least not in my eyes. My husband had been divorced for ten years when I first met him. Camilla and her brother, Marcus, were 14 and 16 when we first exchanged shy smiles across a restaurant table. "Almost adult," I gaily presumed. "They'll be glad that their father has met someone who will make him happy again." That was naive of me — and, given that I have enough step-relations to form a small family staircase, unforgivable.

I was 18 when I first met my stepfather and mulishly indifferent to his charms because — and only because — I resented anyone stepping into my father's shoes — even though he had vacated those shoes by dying in an accident six years before. I should have remembered my outrage at having an "outsider" try to join what was left of my family; my embarrassment at the thought that my mother was in all probability doing IT, at her age, for heaven's sake.

My mother resorted to cunning to win me round: we arranged to meet one evening — him, her, my sister and me but (by design, I discovered many years after) my mother never turned up. By the end of that evening, my sister and I had discovered the man who has sustained and nurtured us ever since.

For me it was easy. I inherited two good-looking, well-mannered, intelligent and funny adolescents who have never lived with us. Their mother lives in a large house two miles from us; we don't have enough rooms to offer them more than a sofa to sleep on. We meet for meals, walks and holidays.

Ours is, therefore, a relationship largely based on fun. It's not our phone bill they run up, we don't lie awake worrying if they are late home at night. Because I am semi-detached, I can enjoy them without the dampener of maternal angst — would I have enthused so about Camilla's tattoo if she had been my natural daughter?

DAVE PARKER

Pierce Brosnan vowed never to remarry

She, Marcus and their friends give me an insight into a generation I would otherwise never have known: obviously a plus. But the accompanying minus is that knowing them as a parent, knowing that I could — just — be their mother makes me feel old. My husband's tastes are not catholic — like his first wife and his daughter, I am tall and blonde. When people assume I am Camilla's mother I am torn between glowing with pride and rushing to the loo to count my wrinkles.

Like any relationship, it has had its down side. I am financially responsible for two children; for much of our marriage, my husband has been responsible for four. There have been bleak periods in the lives of my stepchildren during which I've worried that things would have been different for them had their father not had a second family.

I do sometimes wish we'd had a row. I've had only one with my stepfather, but that's all you need. Years ago, I jumped from the roof of a narrow boat and landed on his camera; he shouted and, embarrassed and upset, I swore. And as I did so I realised that we had bridged the gap, we were treating each other like real family.

Perhaps Marcus and Camilla are less volatile — certainly they are less clumsy — than I am. Perhaps our friendship (for that is what it is; I have never felt remotely as if I were their mother) will continue to strengthen and deepen until we take it completely for granted. As yet I am still absurdly pleased by every indication that they like me. Marcus inviting me to his graduation was another red letter day. But I have long since felt pangs of sadness when — at the end of a happy evening — they go to a "home" that's not ours: And I find myself longing for step-grannydom — even though mine will be a back seat in the christening photos.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

EDINBURGH

San Francisco Ballet returns to Britain after an absence of 17 years with two programmes at the Edinburgh Playhouse (tonight-Sun. 7.30pm — except Thurs, mats Sat and Sun. 2pm) The organist **Peter Hurford** continues his survey of Bach's organ works in Greyfriars Kirk (5.45pm), and the Portuguese pianist **Maria João Pires** plays music by Schubert, Fauré and Bach in the Usher Hall (8pm) Earlier in the day, (Queen's Hall, 11am), **Pamela Frank** and **Joshua Bell**, violins, **Tabea Zimmermann**, viola, **Steven Isserlis**, cello, and **Stephen Hough**, piano, join forces to perform chamber music by Martinů, Mendelssohn and Elgar. **Festival box office** (0131-473 2000)

The 18-piece **Edinburgh University Jazz Orchestra**, under the direction of Eddie Severn, is playing at the **Fringe** every Tuesday to Saturday (Festival Club, Venue 53, doors open, 8.15pm, music starts, 9pm)

Over in the Traverse Theatre (Venue 15; 11am), **Out of Joint** presents a preview of the world premiere of *Blue Heart*, two *funny and disruptive plays* by Caryl Churchill. Meanwhile **Flying Pig Theatre Company** presents a comedy double bill of Shakespearean anarchy In *Macbeth Pursued*, Shakespeare's tragedy is performed twice in 20 minutes, while the Bard meets Tarantino in *Henry V Pulped*.

In the Assembly Rooms (Venue 3, 11.30am) **Steven Berkoff** exposes British sexual hypocrisy in the UK premiere of *Massage* The Assembly Rooms are also the venue for the **Wrestling School**'s performance, at 5pm, of *Wounds to the Face*, Howard Barker's controversial exploration of how we see ourselves and others through *the character of the human face*. **Fringe box office** (0131-226 5138 tickets, 0131-226 5257 information)

LONDON

BBC PROMS At 7pm, in the first of *two concerts this evening*, Mark Elder conducts the **Choir of the Enlightenment** and the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** in Beethoven's Overture, *Namensfeier*, and *Mendelssohn's Goethe setting, Die erste Walpurgisnacht*. After the interval, *the violist Thomas Zehetmair* joins the orchestra for Berlioz's mellow *Harold in Italy* At 10pm, *Markus Stenz* conducts the **London Sinfonietta** in a selection of "classic" works from the 1990s, including Oliver Knussen's *Two Organs*, Simon Bainbridge's *Landscape and Memory* Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *Ritual Fragment*, Thomas Adès's *Living Toys* **Albert Hall**, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) Tonight (5)

Stephanie Beacham is in *Silhouette* in Guildford

ARMY ARTS The *Army Arts Society's* summer exhibition features around 200 paintings, pastels and sculpture on a wide range of subjects **Christie's**, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1 (0171-839 9060). Mon-Fri, 9am-4.30pm Until August 28.

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER: Natalia Makarova plays the dashing *matrix* in Shaw's odd comedy, *Misalliance*. Frank Hauser's cast includes Sheila Reid, Joss Ackland and Tony Britton. **Minerva**, Oaklands Park (01243 781312). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.45pm. Until September 7

GUILDFORD Stephanie Beacham and Joe McGann head a strong cast in Simon Gray's new thriller, *Silhouette*, prior to the West End: Celia returns home to find her husband lying dead in the study. Directed by Keith Baxter **Yvonne Arnaud**, Millbrook (01483 440000) Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm Until August 30 (5)

LONDON GALLERIES

Art First: Back to Nature Flora and Fauna (0171-734 0386) . **The Ikon House**, New Work — Lyn Kitching (0171-603 1123) **Llewellyn Alexander**: Not the Royal Academy 1997 (0171-620 1322) . **London Institute**: Summer Exhibition (0171-514 6000) .. **London International Gallery of Children's Art**: "Homelessness": Art by Refugee Children of the Former Yugoslavia (0171-431 1200) . **National Portrait**: A Dying Art: Ladies of Burlesque (0171-306 0055) **The Photographers' Gallery**: On Hong Kong: Ryuji Miyamoto, Yau Leung (0171-831 1772) . **Portal**: Summer Show (0171-493 0706) .. **Talisman Fine Art**: Four Painters of the Imagination (0171-794 4266) . **V & A**: Zuloaga: Spanish Treasures from the Khalili Collection (0171-938 8349)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ **ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL**: Updating this Shakespeare to modern times gives the comedy a good sharp edge With Frances Cuka and Nigel Planer.
Open Air, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431) Tonight-Thurs, 8pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm.

◪ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey as the leads, with *support from the likes of* Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

◪ **THE BIBLE: THE COMPLETE WORD OF GOD (ABRIDGED)** Another compression job by the Reduced *Shakespeare Company*, *said to put the* fun back into fundamentalism
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat 5pm

□ **CARNABY STREET** New musical by James Hall: the psychedelic 1960s, a working-class musician and his upper-class groupie Terry John Bates directs
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 *(0171-836 3334) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm and* 9.30pm Until August 23

■ **A CHASTE MAID IN CHEAPSIDE** Iranic mix for Middleton's funniest comedy: greed, lust and just a touch of love Mark Rylance plays Allwit, the contented cuckold Directed by Malcolm McKay
Globe, New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-316 4703) Previews begin tonight, *7.30pm. Opens Aug 27, 7.30pm In rep.*

□ **THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN** Set on a remote Irish isle, with excellent playing (Ruaidhri Conroy as the young cripple), Martin McDonagh's second play has its faults but is lively and sharply comic.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Final performances today, 2.15pm and 7.30pm. In rep (5)

◪ **FAMILY CIRCLES** Early Ayckbourn, fiendishly ingenious, where three woman switch partners for each act, though it doesn't help them much
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs (Aug 21, 28, Sep 4), 2.30pm, and Sat, 4pm. Until September 27

□ **HEARTBREAK HOUSE** Strong cast for David Hare's revival includes Emma Fielding, Patricia Hodge, Carmel McSharry, Penelope Wilton, Richard Griffiths, Peter McEnery
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens September 3, 7pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm Until October 11

□ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Return of *Peter Hall's enjoyable production*, terminal of deceptions. Starring Martin Shaw and Simon Ward, and Kate O'Mara as the svelte troublemaker.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Until October 11.

□ **THE MYSTERIOUS MR LOVE** New play by Caroline Leach, set in 1912 in a hotel at Weston-super-Mare, directed by Bob Tomson Paul Nicholas plays a confidence trickster and Susan Penhaligon a lovelorn spinster.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

□ **MY NATIVE LAND** New Rodney Clark play set in British East Africa at the *start of second world war: a comedy of* mismatched love, with Aisha Kahlon and Robert Pike as the lovers Esra Hjalmarsson directs.
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8pm Opens August 21, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm (no performance August 25) Until September 6.

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . □ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ◪ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) . □ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . □ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . ◪ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

THE CLOUD-CAPPED STAR. Young woman sacrifices her life for her family. Ritwik Ghatak's compelling and adventurous Indian drama, made in 1960.
NFT (0171-928 3232)

HEAT AND DUST (15)/ Merchant and manners of the British Raj, decorously *examined by Merchant Ivory With Julie* Christie, Greta Scacchi, Shashi Kapoor
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720)

◆ **SPEED 2: CRUISE CONTROL** (PG) Dawdling sequel set on a cruise ship with Sandra Bullock, Jason Patric and Willem Dafoe Director, Jan De Bont.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

CURRENT

◆ **ADDICTED TO LOVE** (15) Sour romantic comedy with Matthew Broderick and Meg Ryan as spurned lovers who turn Peeping Toms Director, Griffin Dunne
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Heymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **BATMAN & ROBIN** (PG) Schwarzenegger's Mr Freeze tries to hold Gotham to ransom. Exhausting epic, with George Clooney, Chris O'Donnell and Uma Thurman. Director, Joel Schumacher
UCI Whiteleys (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **BEAN** (PG) Rowan Atkinson's bumbler is let loose in LA. Jokes galore, *some sentiment: no subtlety With Peter* MacNicol and (briefly) Burt Reynolds
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3009) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

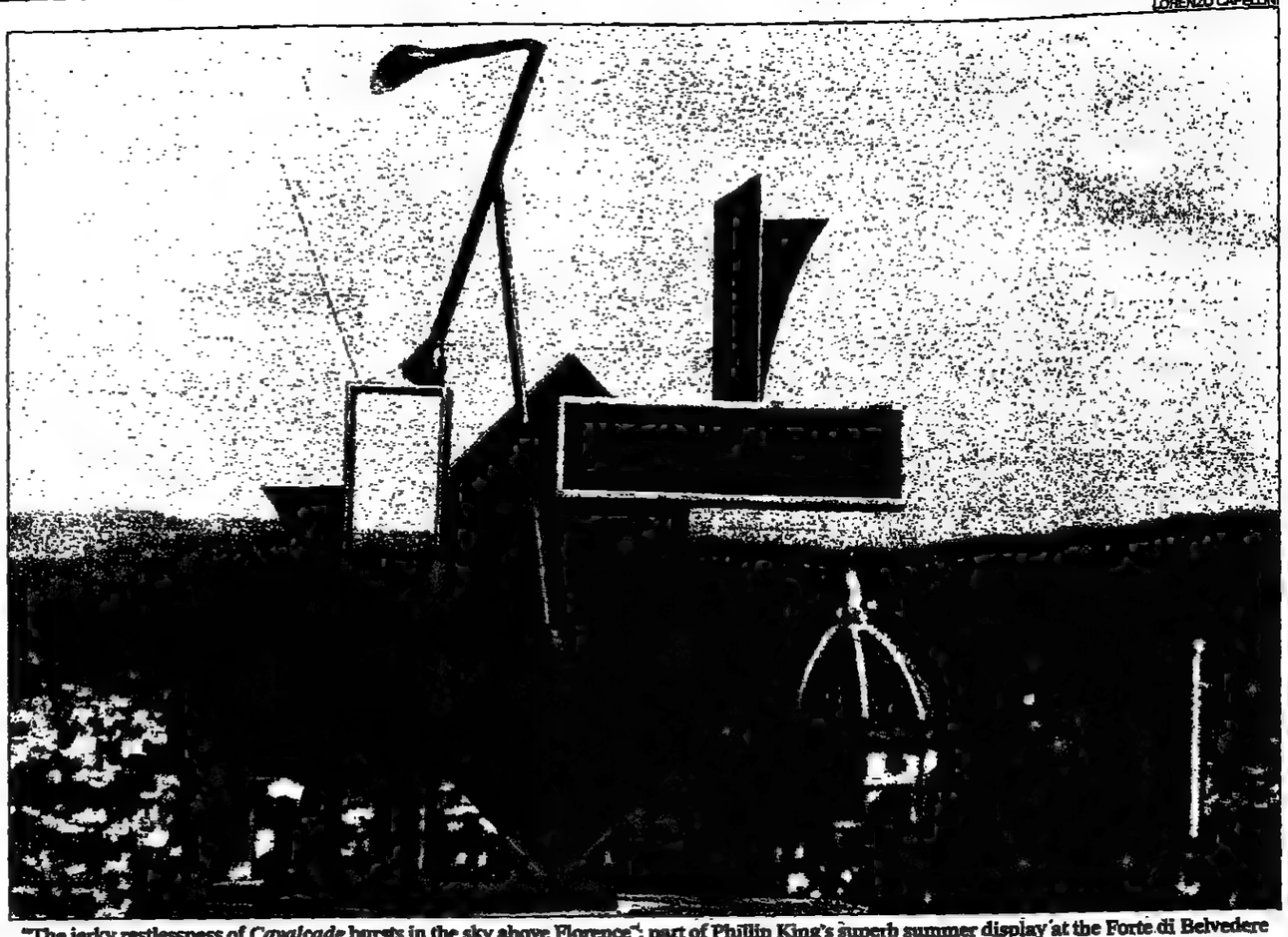
◆ **THE LOST WORLD** (PG) Routine *story, damaged, the sequel to Jurassic* Park. With Jeff Goldblum, Julianne Moore, Pete Postlethwaite and Arliss Howard. Director, Steven Spielberg.
ABCs: Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990 888990) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3009) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)

PALOOKAVILLE (15) Alan Taylor's endearing movie about would-be crooks, with William Forsythe, Vincent Gallo and Adam Trese.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Odeon Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **SWINGERS** (15) Foibles and fumblings of male twentysomethings in LA. Fresh independent movie from Doug Liman, written by lead actor Jon Favreau
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

TIERRA (18) A fumigator at large in the Spanish vineyards. All style, little content from Basque director Julio Medem
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Everyman** (0171-435 1525) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

LORENZO CAPELLINI



"The jerky restlessness of *Cavalcade* bursts in the sky above Florence": part of Phillip King's superb summer display at the Forte di Belvedere

An Englishman in Tuscany

Phillip King's stunning sculptures are being shown on the hills overlooking Florence. Richard Cork reports

High on a hillside above Florence, the ancient Forte di Belvedere offers a captivating panorama of Renaissance architecture at its finest. But the Forte and its extensive surrounding land is also used for surveys of contemporary sculpture. Anyone lucky enough to be displayed there faces an exhilarating yet awesome challenge, pitched against the magisterial finality of Brunelleschi's cathedral dome and Giotto's Tower far below.

Phillip King, whose achievement is celebrated at the Forte this summer, played a key role in revolutionising British sculpture 35 years ago. Abstract, brazenly coloured and using materials as heretical as plastic, aluminium and steel, King's most flamboyant work of the 1960s was unrepentant in its pursuit of renewal. His sculpture might easily have seemed jarring in such a revered context.

But it emerges with enhanced vitality. The Florentine setting reminds us that King's work, even at its most enigmatic, is strongly allied with architecture. Not only did he make a formative trip to Greece in 1960. His reaction to Athens was influenced, in turn, by a childhood spent near Carthage. Those memories have nourished the feeling for poised monumentality in his mature sculpture.

There is nothing complacent about his work, though. "I want people to stand aghast for a second," he once declared, "and I hope they'll do it again and again with my best work." In front of the Forte, I found myself stirred all over again by the audacity and brio of King's large sculptures.

Both the artist and the show's organiser, Peter Murray, have refused to hide the work's exuberance. They allow the jerky restlessness of *Cavalcade* to burst in the sky above Florence, and let the scimitar curves of *Quill* slash their painted steel lines against the distant mountains.

However stimulating these confrontations may be, they have not tempted King and Murray into displaying everything in the open air. The main Forte building provides space for indoor display as well, and some of the most impressive pieces from the early 1960s are shown off here to superb advantage.

The room containing three of King's finest early sculptures is far from capacious. But the works themselves seem energised by their confines. *Window Piece*, a pale concrete rectangle, shows King at his most austere. But *Drift*, with its breast-like swelling tilted back languorously against a plain wooden support, reveals his sensuality. And these impulses fuse unforgettably in *Rosebud*, a puce plastic pyramid slashed by a thin aperture wriggling from apex to base.

During the early 1960s King was constantly nourished by his obsession with the cone. *Genghis Khan*, sheltering in the shade of a loggia at the Forte, rears up like a warrior's tent and sprouts exclamatory antler forms from its head. But it opens in the middle as well, allowing a cascade of blue plastic to spill out and rush towards our feet. This willingness to invade the spectator's space enlivened much of King's work at the time.

In the latter 1960s King expanded his sculpture to an often colossal size. Elements that once formed part of a single object broke free to assert their own existence. Now the spectator can move through them at will. *Span*, a group of gleaming steel monoliths, looks like a 20th-century homage to Stonehenge. While some of its pieces are upright, others lean at tipsy angles and have a melancholy, ruined air.

As for the glorious *Dunstable Rest*, its joyful yellow and purple components sing out from a brick terrace baked by blinding sunlight. They reflect King's euphoria when he awoke to the English countryside in 1969. Until then, his sculpture had a strong urban character. But now, installed in a new farmland studio, he responded to his rural surroundings.

During the 1980s, though, the accidental death of King's son triggered a tragic mood. *Where Is Apollo Now?* contains a doomed figure falling from a sky where impassive clouds hover behind a broken column. It is an openly despairing image, and led on to a series of agitated bronzes.

Even so, their agonised complexity eventually gave way to the calmer mood of the ceramic vessels he started making in 1995. King returned here to the spirit of his most serene 1960s sculpture. Brancusi's benign influence is detectable throughout.

A sense of optimism animates these vessels. They suggest that, in his sixties, King has cast aside some restlessness in a new search for distillation. But we should beware of imagining that he will ever settle down. The rest of this hugely rewarding survey warns us that King's capacity to astound must never be forgotten.

● *Phillip King at Forte di Belvedere, Florence, until Sept 30*

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

□ ONE of the mysteries of 20th-century British art is the relationship between Patricia Preece, Stanley Spencer's favourite model and second wife, and her lesbian lover **Dorothy Hepworth**, with whom she continued to live. The relationship becomes an artistic mystery because Dorothy Hepworth's work was always exhibited as by Patricia Preece. *Masquerade* at the Bloomsbury Workshop demonstrates that, under whatever name, Hepworth was a talent.
12 Galen Place, WC1 (0171-405 0632), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, until Sept 5

□ EIGHT artists inspired by flora and fauna are featured in *Back to Nature* at Art First. Thus we have some new works by Simon Lewty which pursue his obsession with signs and maps. We have haunting little sculptures by **Will Maclean** redolent of flotsam and jetsam, and **Eileen Lawrence**'s exquisite paintings of feathers and other findings of the cliff and shore. **Sandra Masterson** shows a series of intense, brooding paintings concerned with the gestation of the bean from its dark wintry bed. There are also several of **Jack Milroy**'s mind-bogglingly intricate dismemberment/reconstructions of illustrated books, with cascades of paper streamers meticulously cut from their parent books but allowed to pour down the wall with fish swimming among them.
9 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 0386), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-2pm, until Aug 28

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

New faces, old hands

FILM FESTIVAL

Last year the name was the Drambuie Edinburgh Film Festival. This year the name is the Scottish Screen Edinburgh International Film Festival. The change means plenty to the principal sponsors, the main enabling body for cinema in Scotland, though punters have not noticed much difference in the programmes. New British films. Samplings from the wilder corners of international production. Weird documentaries. A soupçon of controversy, this year stirred by *Sick: The Life and Death of Bob Flanagan, Supermasochist*. And a retrospective saluting Edgar G. Ulmer, the only man in history to direct both Leopold Stokowski and the burlesque stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, though not, you understand, in the same picture.

The festival also has a new director, the film critic Lizzie Francke, and she opened proceedings with a flurry of pink tulle in **Ma Vie en Rose**. This French audience-pleaser from a new director, Alain Berliner, explores the impact of a seven-year-old's transvestite urges on his parents' suburban paradise. Berliner finds a few too many easy solutions for such a tumultuous identity crisis, though the generous spirit and glops of visual kitsch prevent the film ever degenerating into situation comedy pap. Michèle Laroque and Jean-Philippe Ecoffey excel as the harassed parents; child actor Georges du Fresne gives delicate shading to the boy who believes his destiny lies inside a dress.

Twinkling kitsch over, it was time to join the Edgar G. Ulmer odyssey, with the director's daughter and keeper of the flame, Arianne Ulmer Cipes, as our friendly guide. In resurrecting 26 works by this obscure Austrian-born director, who came to America as Max Reinhardt's stage assistant and wandered the world making films in six days, Francke was following footsteps first trodden some 25 years ago. Edinburgh then led the world in finding significance in forgotten fodder.

This kind of retrospective brings both danger and delight. Dedicated buffs can savour an interesting, eccentric career, and catch missing items like *The Man from Planet X*, a charming diversion of 1951, or the moribund *Hannibal* of 1960, featuring elephants, snow and Victor Mature, gleaming in CinemaScope. The trouble is, once you move beyond the certified

Ulmer classics — *Detour* and *The Black Cat* being the most prominent — you risk wading through barren ground.

Given the handicaps under which Ulmer worked, one almost expected him to be the director of a film screening in the documentary section, **Fast, Cheap & Out of Control**. But he was not. Errol Morris was the maestro here; who else among American independents would tease out philosophical questions about order and chaos from the life experiences of a topiary gardener, a robot engineer, a wild animal trainer and an expert in naked mole rats? They talk straight to camera, but never become mere "talking heads". Morris douses his images with surreal poetry, tilting his camera, intercutting inventively. This was delicious.

So, too, was Ross McElwee's **Six O'Clock News**, a further instalment of the American film-maker's unique documentation of his life and times. Fascinated and worried by the roll-call of tragedies and bizarre incidents that comprise local TV news, McElwee decides to take to the road, camera in hand, and track down some of the subjects. He meets hurricane survivors, a Korean immigrant whose wife was murdered, and a garage cleaner crushed by concrete during an LA earthquake. As in Morris's film, chaos looms large in these lives; but McElwee, a gentler spirit, allows you to feel more of the emotional consequences.

Beside such compelling reports from planet Earth, some of the fictional festival fare begins to look a little artificial. On Friday night **Face**, the latest from Edinburgh favourite Antonia Bird, had audiences cheering madly. This, in case you didn't know it, is the film that features Damon Albarn's acting debut. His part may be small — Blur's frontman makes only the briefest of appearances and utters a minimum of lines — but he does at least add his name to the list of pop stars who have successfully portrayed hoodlums on screen.

As to the film itself, once you strip away the rigorously stylised photography and a shallow attempt at political comment, all you have is a tawdry story of thieves falling out. It is right to give thanks, though, for the film's dark humour and the savoury cast, led by Robert Carlyle, Ray Winstone and Philip Davis.

Better news on the British front comes with **The Girl with Brains in her Feet**, a likeable comedy about a schoolgirl facing 13-year-old problems: period pains, an erratic home life, sex and its consequences, and pressure from the PE teacher who believes her to be the school's dream athlete. "Leicester, England, 1972," the opening title says; and the unapologetic insistence on local colour from an unfashionable pocket of Britain is one of the film's delights. Joanna Ward's perplexed heroine is another.

Under the Skin, financed by the British Film Institute and Channel 4, offers another reason to wave the flag. Visuals alone keep you riveted to Carine Adler's debut film: dreary domestic interiors become transformed with edgy cutting and expressionistic colours. But the human dimension is uppermost. The subject is coming to terms with a mother's sudden death, and the identity crisis this provokes. Samantha Morton's wayward daughter makes no concessions to audience sympathy as she lurches between moods and sexual encounters in her mother's wig and fur coat. But she wins our hearts by wrestling openly with painful emotions. This is the kind of film that gives the audience no hiding place.

Over the weekend there was no place to hide from **Mrs Brown**, if only because its co-star Billy Connolly was in town practising his customary press conference sport of lambasting the Scottish media. But John Madden's film, due for release shortly, deserves attention on its own for the skill, tenderness and humour with which it treats Queen Victoria's friendship with her Highland factotum John Brown. Judi Dench is not stretched as the Queen, plunged into grief after Prince Albert's death, but Connolly is unexpectedly fine as the champion who gave her tea, sympathy and possibly a little more.

GEOFF BROWN

● *The Scottish Screen Edinburgh International Film Festival, until Aug 24 (0131-467 8855)*

Damon Albarn (left), making his screen debut, with Ray Winstone in Antonia Bird's *Face*, one of the offerings at the Edinburgh Film Festival

Big yellow taxi ride through hell

THEATRE

Several of the brightest offerings on the Edinburgh Fringe this year are imports from America — and, no, I'm not thinking of Steve Martin's **Wasp** (Assembly Rooms), a cluttered satire about Mr Average Suburbanite, with his fundamentalist religion, his goofy obsession with golf, and his half-mad family. Some passable lines — "the denial of my affection will make my son strong like me", "Oh God in Heaven, which is seven miles above the Earth" — do not compensate for the clumsiness of the whole.

But Will Kern's **Hellcab**, presented by a Chicago company called Tamarind at the Traverse, has bite, pace, humour and a surprising sensitivity, and left me feeling I would never, ever complain about grouchy taxi drivers again. After all, what happens to Loren Lazerine's unnamed cabbie as he trundles through the Windy City in his yellow personmobile on Christmas Eve? His passengers include noisome evangelicals, a maniac boy seeking drugs, a gluey vamp, a couple who have sex in the back before reaching their motel, several drunks, a Hyde-like figure who asks him "to make a right into that alley", and a nut who thinks the solution to Earth's problems is mining the Moon.

Twice the cabbie tries to intervene in the serial chaos, seeking out a young woman to tell her that the yuppie who has been sweet-talking her actually sees her as a cheap lay, and offering a trip to the hospital to a dazed rape victim. But all he ends up with is an acute sense of guilt for having accepted a big tip from someone seriously in trouble. Whether you see the play as a portrait of embattled human decency, or a study of the intricacies of race, poverty and urban desperation, or simply implicit propaganda for black cabs with strong partitions, *Hellcab* is equally rewarding.

As you might expect from the author of *Search and Destroy* and *The Lights*, Howard Korder's **Boys' Life** (Assembly Rooms) is also about the confusions of city living; but this time the emphasis is sex in its more joyless varieties. Danny McCarthy's Jack, fretting at wedlock, pretends to casual pick-ups that his son is his ward, and does all he can to ensure that his unmarried pals stay as immature as himself.

Korder has a nice ear for the argot of a subworld in which women go to Find-the-Goddess-Within classes, men boast of having their own partitions at the office, and love-talk is apt to consist of "I'm miserable", "I know you are, that's why I feel so close to you." But beneath the Feifferesque comedy there's a strong sense of two genders and one city in drastic disarray.

Among the indigenous offerings, there's a finely acted revival of David Harrower's **Knives in Hens** (Traverse), a bleak but powerful tale of a peasant woman's escape from mental and marital servitude that was much admired when it played in London in 1995. But the best notices have gone to another Traverse Scot, Mike Cullen, for his **Anna Weiss**, which involves the undeniably topical subject of false memory syndrome.

The piece could be subtler without imperilling its main strength, which is dramatic tension. Surely memory-manipulators are dangerous when they are canny and plausible, not when they are as transparently pushy and as crudely man-hating as Anne Marie Timoney's Anna. Moreover, Cullen needs to work harder on several scenes, notably those in which the therapist reveals she has offloaded her own experience of incest on her patient and, moments afterwards, the two women reverse roles. As it is, an admittedly engrossing superficiality rules.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Prokofiev in bulk proves indigestible

CONCERTS

The road past Prokofiev was paved with good intentions. In presenting 17 works by the one composer in three concerts in three days, the Edinburgh Festival was taking an enormous box-office risk, even with **Valery Gergiev** and **Alexander Toradze** prominent among the performers. Financially, given that both **Kirov Orchestra** concerts were well sold and the Toradze piano circus cannot have cost very much, they got away with it. Artistically, they missed the target by miles.

The notion of lumping together all nine of Prokofiev's piano sonatas in one afternoon was always a dubious one, bearing in mind that by no means all are masterpieces. Performed by one or two master pianists they might have added up to an illuminating experience. Performed by seven of Toradze's pupils and junior colleagues at the University of Indiana, and shovelled together as though at random — and with two negligible Sonatines thrown in to prolong a concert of three and a half hours by a further 25 minutes — it was a matter of subtraction rather than addition.

The only useful way to have done it would have been to offer the nine sonatas in chronological order. But the Ninth and fragmentary Tenth (the latter with an ill-conceived lighting effect) were included in a jumbled first half which took 90 minutes before it reached a work of true inspiration, the Sonata No 2. It says much for Alexander Korsantiya, the pianist involved in the Seventh and Eighth Sonatas, that he was able to retrieve so much lost ground in the fourth hour of the recital.

Two days earlier, Toradze had taken part in another badly planned Prokofiev programme, this one with Gergiev and the Kirov Orchestra in a concert featuring the problematical Fifth and youthful First Piano Concertos in the first half with the hideous *Scythian Suite*. As an exceptionally volatile musician Toradze was well suited to the elusively organised Fifth Concerto which, however, was completely upstaged by the romantic exuberance of the First.

The essential fact about Prokofiev is that of all great composers he was the most flawed. Gergiev and his excellent orchestra did all they could in their second Usher Hall concert to redeem the Second Symphony but, in the shock-horror first movement at least, it remained obdurately irredeemable.

Fortunately, considering the undercharacterised solo performance by Sergei Levitin, the Second Violin Concerto needs no special pleading. The Third Symphony, on the other hand, still does and — the most positive achievement in the three days — Gergiev demonstrated that, pieced together though it is from bits of *The Fiery Angel*, it is a miraculously coherent and dramatically effective construction.

GERALD LARNER

Sing-along-a-rock'n'roll

POP

Songs and Visions
Wembley Stadium

DESPITE being billed as featuring "Songs from Oasis back to Elvis", Saturday's *Songs and Visions* spectacular at Wembley Stadium failed to deliver the Oasis side of the equation. In fact, it scarcely delivered much at all.

Assembling a living jukebox of seasoned rock voices to belt out the greatest hits of the past 40 years, each illustrated by relevant newsreel footage, was always a bizarre notion. Perhaps 1990s soul divas Toni Braxton and Mary J. Blige boosted their profiles by pandering to such bland populism, but do Rod Stewart or Seal need such desperate measures to salvage their ailing careers?

Jon Bon Jovi clearly does not, since his energetic contributions were the most rapturously received of the whole three-hour set. Possibly because the New Jersey rocker has tailored his entire career to stadium shows, he worked the crowd like an expert. But Robert Palmer seemed as out of place as his designer 1980s suits, while Steve Winwood's blustery soulman routine merely sounded tired.

There were set piece numbers by kd lang and Chaka Khan, though only Braxton's quavering emotionalism proved consistently engaging.

But far more disappointing than any individual performance was the deeply conservative set list, which relied heavily on wearily predictable Motown-era soul while virtually ignoring the progressive, rebellious spirit of rock'n'roll altogether. Punk rock and hip-hop, the two most exciting and culturally significant pop movements of the past 20 years, were pointedly ignored. Even the all-star reading of Bob Dylan's 1964 hit, *Like a Rolling Stone*, completely missed the scouring, spite-filled momentum of the original.

Also strangely overlooked were the hits of Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Springsteen, Madonna, Elton John, David Bowie and Michael Jackson. For an event claiming to offer a definitive overview of the rock era, these were inexplicably perverse omissions.

Ultimately, *Songs and Visions* presented a depressingly safe and sanitised view of pop history. It was not a celebration of rock as abrasive soundtrack to social protest or youth revolution. Instead, it offered a distorted and revisionist view of our century's greatest art form as mere "feel-good" family entertainment, drained of all the danger and passion and sexual charge which made it so exciting in the first place. This was a vision of pop music as historical cabaret rather than vital cultural force.

Of course, there is a huge market for this sort of cosy pop nostalgia and, in fairness, very few of the 70,000 strong-crowd at *Songs and Visions* seemed to leave disappointed. Climaxing with a six-song Elvis Presley medley, book-ended by two Beatles numbers, the Wembley extravaganza became the world's biggest karaoke party and almost everyone sang along.

But as the applause died, the sound of Presley spinning angrily in his grave was clearly audible.

STEPHEN DALTON

In his own image

BBC PROMS
Britten Nights
Albert Hall/Radio 3

AT A time when there are strong inducements to play safe, Radio 3 and the Proms are to be congratulated on extending the tradition, established last year — when Richard Taruskin stirred up some Stravinskian hornets — of inviting a controversial speaker to give the BBC Proms Lecture. This year it was a Britten Weekend, and Philip Brett gave a characteristically brilliant talk, broadcast live from the Royal College of Art, on how Britten reconstructed the English pastoral on his own terms, challenging the Establishment from his position as a social outsider.

Central to Brett's thesis is the notion that Britten's "difference" was determined by his sexuality, and the canticle *The Prodigal Son*, given by the City of Birmingham Touring Opera on Saturday evening, is one of the numerous works whose meaning can be opened up by reference to the composer's own struggle with the temptations of the flesh. In an all-male scenario the Tempter (Ivan Sharpe) persuades the Younger Son (Andrew Burden) to "act out your desires", and Mark Tinkler's excellent staging touched sensitively on the homo-erotic undertones.

Setting the parable in the 1930s when Britten was himself a young man, Tinkler gave it immediacy by dressing his singers as working men rather than monks. Charles Johnston and Quentin Hayes were admirable as Father and Elder Son, and the CBTO and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, directed by Simon Halsey, realised the score's subtleties in such a way as to make the inferior status of *The Prodigal Son*, compared with the other canticles, seem in need of review.

You might think the *War Requiem* beyond the reach of Brett's depredations, but his comment about Britten's critique of "empty religious forms" came to mind occasionally in the Latin chanting by the boys' choir in Sunday's performance. That is no reflection on the first-rate choristers of Westminster Abbey, under Martin Neary (who earlier in the afternoon had given a fine concert of their own), whose voices floated ethereally down from the gallery.

The three soloists, who are taking the work to the Salzburg Festival for the first time this week, could hardly have been more sharply differentiated. Eva Urbanová delivered the soprano part on an operatic scale, with untidy beginnings and endings of phrases: all rather formidable, yet somehow disengaged. The tenor Hans Peter Blochwitz brought more humanity to Wilfred Owen's poignant verse: more vulnerability, too, though better diction would have maximised his impact. The baritone Thomas Hampson was less savage than Blochwitz in their duet *Out there*, but he invoked a magnificent dark anger in *Be slowly lifted up, thou long black arm* and a profound sorrow in *After the blast of lightning*.

The choral and orchestral explosions in the *Dies Irae* were thrillingly manufactured by the City of Birmingham and BBC Symphony Choruses, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis, though as always it is the ending's unfathomable sadness and sense of loss that linger in the memory.

BARRY MILLINGTON

SOLUTIONS AND WINNERS. Bridge (Friday). £500 winner: John Elven, Cambridge. **Mensa.** £100 to Patricia McCormack, Cannock, Staffs. **Chess (Saturday).** Answer c was correct – Queen takes pawn on e6, check, sacrificing the Queen. Black has to accept with 1 ... bxe6 (if he blocks with the bishop it is captured with checkmate), but now White has the pretty 2 Bishop to g6 checkmate. b), 1 Bishop to g6 loses because Black takes the knight, not the bishop, with 1 ... Queen takes c6, while c) 1 Bishop to b5 achieves nothing and the White knight is stranded on c6. £500 to Daniel Awdry, Melksham, Wilts. **Mensa.** 1 Bluebell. 2 Alan – Twenty six pounds and fifty pence. Brenda Fifteen Pounds and fifty pence. 3 1050. £100 to Janet Cox, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Hague's team has no future on the Left

The Tories lack both policies and principles, says **Graham Mather**

Conservatives have never enjoyed Opposition. Many approve Iain Macleod's dictum, "The Socialists can scheme their schemes, and the Liberals can dream their dreams, but we, at least, have work to do." The interest in policy of the Thatcher era was not typical. After John Major's defeat, many Tories rushed to assure the public that it would be a long time before they advanced any new policies — or indeed any policies at all.

This would have been the correct response if it had been Conservative policies that lay at the root of defeat. In fact, ideologically Conservative policy positions have been adopted by a Labour Government that can sometimes seem one of the most market-minded, reforming governments Britain has seen. If the right policies mean success, it cannot be wise for Conservatives to become a policy-less party.

It was the perceived failings of Conservative ministers and MPs, their shortcomings and incompetence that put off the voters. As a leading Tory strategist put it during the election campaign, "they want our policies without us". So to turn away from Conservative policymaking would be misjudged and perverse. The correct response is to out-reform Labour: to have better and more radical solutions to the "wicked issues" of state welfare, state spending and the machinery of government. Modern politics awards the prizes to those who reach the right policy solutions first, regardless of traditional political colour or label. Instead, on each of these priority issues, the early signs have been for policy-starved Tories to attack Labour from its left flank.

When Frank Field, Social Security Minister, opened up the issue of more autonomy for benefit offices, one would have expected Tories to rejoice at such Thatcherite thinking. Instead, a cry went up to challenge him to rule out benefit payments differentiated regionally. Yet surely reforming Conservatives cannot be happy with a £107 billion welfare budget, predicated on the false basis that living costs and personal requirements are identical from one end of the country to another? The radical path would be to urge Mr Field on, rather than seeking to trip him up.

The persistent inability to make real inroads into government spending levels may be ending. After a quarter per cent cut in spending on services and pay this year, the projection for the coming year is of a 1 per cent cut. Does this merit Tory squawks? Surely the right response is to hold Gordon Brown accountable for the reduction, and watch like hawks for any backsliding, rather than to suggest that Conservatives wish state spending to be any higher.

Many Conservatives with Treasury experience have yearned for years for an independent Bank of England tough enough to ensure that, when in doubt, monetary policy is toughened against inflationary risk. With politicians in charge, the danger is always of action too late, leading to Britain's familiar go-stop, boom-bust cycles. The legitimate criticism of Mr Brown's reforms was that they did not go far enough, to make the Governor personally and directly responsible for inflation outcomes. Instead Tories attacked the whole principle of Bank of England autonomy.

In Britain today it is rare for capable senior businessmen to accept ministerial appointments. It will be rarer still after the onslaught on David Simon, former chairman of BP. Business leaders are profoundly unimpressed by the attacks. Some I have spoken to are reviewing whether it is worth encouraging their best people to look to a period of work in Whitehall. The Conservative Party needs to refresh its own talent banks, not least from the business community. British governance needs the same. The attack on Lord Simon of Highbury rarely seemed to have regard to these considerations.

To attack from the Left is an uncomfortable position. It implies that less reform, more spending and a bigger State are what Conservatives really wanted all the time: a proposition that voters will consider lacking in credibility. The suggestion that Conservative reforms aimed to end up increasing public spending, building a bigger and more comprehensive welfare state, and establishing a larger state health and education sector, makes nonsense both of history and ideology.

It is understandable that surviving Tories, traumatised by so comprehensive a defeat, will wish to put some distance between themselves and the factors that might be responsible for the disaster. Yet it is better to be positive than negative, even in Opposition. As the guru of the Cambridge Right, Maurice Cowling, argues in his recent Politeia pamphlet, *A Conservative Future*, even a Eurosceptic position "should be more positive and less defensive than it has been in the past".

He is right. As Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Harvard highlighted in this year's *Global Competitiveness Report*, on every economic indicator the Anglo-Saxon economies of the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland are outperforming continental Europe. European taxes, Sachs reports, are already producing "widespread evasion, corruption and cynicism". The Anglo-Saxon economies are dramatically outperforming EU performance in growth, employment, spending competitiveness and tax levels. For Tories this is a positive message that validates their work and suggests more of the same, not a retreat to Christian Democratic statism.

New Labour is seeking to learn the techniques of Thatcherite reform. Conservatives should propose, support, encourage and monitor changes aimed at these goals. They should avoid any accusation that they are retreating to a profoundly conventional and reactionary model of opposition, policy-free and quite divorced from the political principles they followed in power.

The author is a Conservative MEP and president of the European Policy Forum.

Mrs Cook's home truth

If two bright people marry and procreate, something has to give way . . . probably somebody's dream

Libby Purves

With opinions, as with antiques, provenance is all. Thousands of women could write to a newspaper pointing out that obsessive, workaholic, vain, competitive men spend too little time with their families and therefore often wreck them. But nobody would pay much attention. Dozens of columnists have said it and met with no more than bored shrugs: bah, women, always grumbling.

But now, hurrah! The truism is elegantly expressed in a letter to *The Scotsman* and signed "Margaret Cook". News editors blink in incredulous delight at such a chance to embarrass the Foreign Secretary, and the sad old truth is suddenly a headline. The rest of us might as well make hay while we can, and swell the chorus.

For among those who aim high and achieve high, this unequal competition between work and family life is one of the curses of the age. It is, to the modern middle classes, what gin was to the Victorian poor. It breaks hearts, oppresses the kind and gentle, warps the lives of little children and stunts the achievement of teenagers. Its poison does not confine itself to individual families, but spreads wider, creating a general climate in which betrayal becomes smart and serial matrimony a norm, because this is the life which visible public achievers lead. Media people, actors, literati, politicians, glitzy journalists whose nimble prose makes everything seem acceptable — all these are regularly seen to dump spouses and children for photogenic new partners, generally associated with their work.

None of this makes anybody noticeably happier. Sometimes the new relationship collapses, sometimes it staggers on until grey-haired men who largely ignored their first children find themselves, with their careers in decline, pretending to enjoy the raising of a second brood with a nervy, demanding younger wife who can't quite understand where all the fun went.

But then, you wouldn't expect it to make people happier: very little of this merry-go-round of smart divorce is founded on any sensible reason. It is not habitual unkindness, violence, mutual contempt, incompatibility or even ungovernable sexual passion which causes it, but more likely the reasons delineated by Mrs Robin Cook. What price an affair born not of selfless tenderness but of obsessive hurry, of ambition, of the emotional fragility of a high-stakes player in a trade without trust? As Mrs Cook cruelly remarks, when the workaholic's one solace is praise, "He/she is likely to become strongly attracted to any person who regularly and unstintingly supplies it, to the strong detriment of other relationships".

Ouch! Well, I know nothing of the Foreign Secretary's nature, but the picture is familiar. Anybody who has ever worked in an adrenalin trade should recognise it. At work — on the film set, at the party conference, in the newsroom — life resembles one of those bright ensemble TV dramas. Sharp-witted, amusing colleagues appreciate your talents, take your side against office enemies and share your triumphs with cries of "Yess!" and exuberant high fives. You smile into one another's eyes, locked in the heady intimacy of a hunting party gloating over its kill.

Later, back home, you are just Dad. Dad, whose job is to rod out the kitchen drain or negotiate unsatisfactorily with cheeky builders about the damp. Dad, who is in trouble for having had a victory drink after work instead of rushing home to go and sit in a school hall smelling of gym shoes and be lectured by some corduroyed teacher about Damien's inattention in Combined Science.

Your wife is unimpressed by your day's achievements, probably because she has a rather less glamorous job of her own which she struggles to fit around a mass of commitments to the young and the old, which includes buying a birthday present for *your* aged mother. Since you are such a high achiever, you are intelligent enough to see that this is unfair. Since you are a human being, seeing it makes you even grumpier and less well-disposed towards the hearth and home.

So when the chance comes to stay longer at work — the place where people make you feel good and important and brave and wise — you take it, rather than go home and feel guilty and clumsy and incompetent. Nor does all this apply only to men: reverse the sexes throughout, if you like. US research recently uncovered numbers of professional women prepared to admit that they feel more relaxed at work than at home.

When work and domesticity are so at odds, and hardly anybody gets home for a healing lunch with their spouse (as quite senior functionaries do in Italy), no wonder the hackneyed temptations of sex crop up. But even affairs would matter less if relations were not already soured by a build-up of resentment in the domestic spouse, and of needy vanity in the workaholic. Worse than infidelity is the deeper betrayal which puts another tribe before the family: a woman may be furious if her husband sleeps with a neighbour she knows, but if he sleeps with some aloof power woman at work, then the betrayal is doubled. "What could I know?" said a BBC adulterer's wife once, bitterly. "I was just a little woman up from Bromley with Farex on my skirt."

Of course, there is a way that the high-flying hard-working man can have the cake and eat it. He can — or once could — marry a woman who actually wants to give her life to supporting his: to be mother to his family, hostess to his contacts, mistress of his wardrobe and his medicine cabinet, breathless admirer of his triumphs, tactful soother of his defeats. She sees herself as part of his team, and puts aside her own concerns to meet him with a drink, a fresh dress and the nearest that a Home Counties wife can manage to a geisha obeisance. Young wives used to be lectured on how to do all this: even in the 1960s Jilly Cooper urged her readers to get the Hoovering done before "He" came home because men don't like women fussing around with unbecoming housework.

It is unfashionable nowadays to advocate such conduct, but older women who have done it all their lives will — when properly encouraged, assured they are in sympathetic company and primed with a small sherry — tell you that it works. The man with such a wife will enjoy coming home. If he leaves her (some do, which is cruelly hard for wives who have risked all on wifehood), then it is likely to be for a stronger reason than the poor saps mentioned earlier, who just blunder embarrassedly out of one badly run marriage into the next.

But you can't be both a geisha and a consultant haematologist: any more than you can be an attentive husband and Foreign Secretary. When Mrs Cook first spoke publicly about the break-up of her marriage, she laid blame on the excessive hours an NHS consultant has to work. Now she has given us the other side of the coin. Both are valid. It is hard for a family to survive one high-powered career these days, and almost impossible to survive the pressure of two.

Even if the family does not crack apart, a great deal of that daily pressure is communicated to the children. From their earliest days they will understand that even the simple, joyful business of giving them their milk and fish fingers and admiring their playgroup artefacts is a source of stress and worry and muttered cursing about the unreliability of nannies. Later, they will see busy parents flying hither and yon, shouting instructions down telephones as they thrust their arms into jacket sleeves, and generally carrying on as if anything on the far end of a wire was bound to be more important than what their own child is saying. This does not make children happy and confident. Sorry, but it's true.

The awful fact is that if two bright people marry and procreate, something has to give way. Probably somebody's dream. People should face this when they marry, and remember it again before they conceive children. To say that is no backlash against feminism — men can slow down their careers, too, or follow faithfully like Denis Thatcher in milady's perfumed wake. But if we're so damn bright, we aspiring achievers, we should be able to work out that nobody can have everything.

Kohl can't save EMU from itself

Daniel Johnson on the don who damns the euro

Unlike Tony Blair, Helmut Kohl does not normally interrupt his holidays in the dog days of August to speak to the press — let alone in a foreign language. After 15 years in power, the German Chancellor reckons he no longer has anything to prove. But on Sunday evening, a rare midsummer television interview was broadcast. For foreign consumption, the focus — inevitably — was on the single currency. Herr Kohl had a simple message: the euro will be a strong, stable currency. It was, he insisted, "a mistake" for the markets to assume that stability would be sacrificed in order to stick to the timetable for monetary union. To give stability anything other than top priority "is a price I will not pay".

Note the assumption that the stability of the new European currency is subject to the fiat of one country's leader. Yet Herr Kohl insists that the guarantor of the euro will be an "energetic, powerful" European central bank. It is an article of faith for Bonn that the new bank, based in Frankfurt, will be indistinguishable in economic doctrine or *modus operandi* from the Bundesbank. Any talk of a "soft" euro is dismissed as scurrilous rumour-mongering by the Eurosceptics.

Chancellor Kohl's reassuring promise of a stable single currency coincides, however, with the appearance of an alarming scenario from the pen of an Oxford economist of impeccable academic distinction. Dr Walter Eltis. Published yesterday, his pamphlet (*The Creation and Destruction of EMU*, £7.50 from Centre for Policy Studies, 57 Tufton St, London SW1P 3QL) eschews ideological polemics, and is published by a think-tank whose director, Tessa Keswick, was Kenneth Clarke's Europhile political adviser. Even so, Herr Kohl will certainly ignore it.

Dr Eltis begins by quoting a few of the warnings of Europhile businessmen such as Martin Taylor of Barclays and Niall FitzGerald of Unilever, or transatlantic observers such as Alan Greenspan and George Soros, none of whom has any political axe to grind. All are worried that EMU will be vulnerable to speculation. He then examines the creation of EMU, and argues that 11 member states will probably participate in the first wave, with only Greece, Denmark, Sweden and the UK staying out.

So large a membership will favour French rather than German leadership, and Dr Eltis reminds us that the French once dominated a previous EMU-like experiment: the Latin Monetary Union formed in 1865. Using the French franc as the basis of a common currency, it included Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and Greece. After three decades, it collapsed because the French refused to issue a guarantee to the other members that, if the Union dissolved, they would be repaid the gold value of their reserves of silver francs.

This historical episode is not irrelevant to the main analysis, which concentrates on EMU's crucial transition phase from January 1, 1999, when the national currencies will be fixed against the euro, to December 31, 2001, after which the euro alone will remain legal tender. Dr Eltis postulates that the weaker economies will soon come under pressure, because fixed exchange rates will allow investors to switch from, say, lire into marks without penalty at the first sign of trouble. As money floods in, the Bundesbank will face a stark choice: buy lire and print unlimited numbers of marks, or face the certainty of an Italian departure from EMU.

The European bank will be impotent during this transitional phase, being able only to print euros, unless it can offer the kind of exchange rate guarantee that France refused to give a century ago. Citing Tim Congdon's research, Dr Eltis points out that no such guarantee has been given, because only the national governments have the resources to give it force. In its absence, the Bundesbank will also refuse to act as guarantor. If the European bank then orders the Bundesbank to print vast quantities of marks, such an order could be challenged in the German courts. Any delay would be instantly fatal. As Britain discovered in 1992, governments and central banks can be brought to their knees in a matter of hours by the sheer volume of speculation. And as soon as the markets sensed that a member state was vulnerable, the whole structure of EMU would totter: "there will be staggering opportunities for profit".

If Dr Eltis is right, then Chancellor Kohl must give substance to the "energetic, powerful" European central bank for which he now calls. He must charm — or more likely cajole — the Bundesbank into submitting totally to the European bank. It must be clear before 1999 that Germany is ready to print as many marks as the European bank deems necessary. Of course, with an election due in autumn 1998, such a blank cheque would be political suicide in a country where two hyperinflations are still a living memory. But if Herr Kohl cannot put his money where his soundbite is, the single currency is unlikely to last even three years.

Sundancers

AS Diana, Princess of Wales, soaks up the sun in Greece, her favourite ballerinas are having a less happy time of it. Dancers of the English National Ballet, of which the Princess is patron, have been banned from sunbathing.

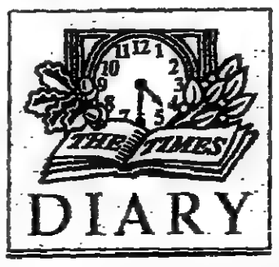
When the *corps de ballet* returned from holiday, sporting complexions ranging from pink to walnut brown, the artistic director, Derek Deane, went quietly pale. Then he, too, went puce: with rage.

With a new production of *Swan Lake* imminent, he had a vision of his swans taking to the stage like a flock of flamingos and ordered them to slap on the camomile lotion and stay out of the sun. Deane's gloom deepened when the principal dancers, husband and wife Lisa Pavane and Greg Horsman, returned from Corfu with dark tans.

Come next month, when the production opens at Oxford's Apollo theatre, all must be whiter than white. Deane explains: "I'm just a little worried that the lighting effects will wreak havoc with sunburnt dancers, making them look purple and puce. The last time we had a heatwave we ended up with a scarlet Wilis in *Giselle*. We simply can't give roasted swans to the public this season."

● *The catalogue that accompanies the sale of more than 40,000 relics from the Windsors' Paris home in the Bois de Boulogne shows a lack of good table manners that would have appalled the former King. Much time has been taken to recreate place settings at the Windsors' dinner table but someone has positioned the spoons across the top of the plates. Says a sheepish Sotheby's minion: "Clearly the perpetrator is a better photographer than he is butler, but we won't hold that against him."*

"Throwing money at them's no good; they'd only drop it"



Pool pooch

THE hounding of Kevin Maxwell continues. Katie Firth, of Stock Row near Henley, spent last week looking for her missing dog, Bengo. Eventually, the mutt turned up, safe. It had spent the time happily practising its doggy paddle in Maxwell's swimming pool on the other side of the Thames.

Neighbours twice reported seeing the dog in his pool at 5am after being woken by splashing. "It was such a relief when we found her," Firth says. "The vet said she would be all right." There was some bemusement at how the dog had managed to cross the river, but her laps of the Maxwell lido suggest she is not afraid of getting her paws wet.

Widening role

HOW heartening it is to see that between holding press conferences and photo calls, the Prime Minister has had time to enjoy the local flavour of the countries he has visited on his dual location holiday. Not for him a vacation lounging by the pool. He has played football against a local team and walked in the countryside. But most of all, the straining seams of his jeans suggest, he has enjoyed exploring local restaurants.

Mediterranean mammas everywhere would be proud to see that Mr Blair has been filling out. It is not yet a beer gut but it appears that he has not recently been knowingly under-lunched. "He was tucking in with relish," says one who found himself sitting at an adjoining table to the PM at an hotel in San Gimignano, the other day. After Blair's failure to say *basta* after all that *pasta*, one dreads to think how much he will enjoy *magret de canard* (breast of duck), a speciality of St Martin D'Oydes.

Tony Blair: too much pasta?

Secret's out

BEST wishes to the Marquess of Milford Haven, who is to marry for the second time in a garden ceremony in Nantucket, Massachusetts, tomorrow. The Queen's cousin, known to his friends as Gorgeous George, is to wed Clare Wentworth-Stanley. She has also been married and is an occasional journalist: earlier this year she wrote an article for *The Express* about the hardship of being just too beautiful.

The Marquess's first wife, by whom he has two children, was Sarah, the daughter of the former Brent Walker tycoon George Walker. Their divorce has recently come through. Originally, tomorrow's ceremony was planned with the kind of secrecy one might find surprising from a popular chap who is a great-nephew of Earl Mountbatten and whose late father, David, was best man at the Queen's wedding to Prince Philip. But then, somehow, there was talk of *Hello!* and the Duchess of York coming and the word was out.

Wentworth-Stanley: marrying

P·H·S

DIVIDED THEY STAND

Why the Bosnian Serb power struggle matters to the world

The British troops who mounted guard yesterday over a police station in Republika Srpska stood on the symbolic front line of a power struggle between Srpska's Serb leaders. In theory the troops are on a neutral mission, defusing a confrontation between rival Serb paramilitary police. In practice, they are protecting the authority of Srpska's embattled President, Biljana Plavsic.

The decision to do so has not come easily to America and its allies. In the corrupting aftermath of a catastrophic war it is hard to distinguish white hats from black. The issue is whether something akin to the rule of law can displace the opportunist bandits who now control life in the Serb part of the confederal Bosnian republic established under the Dayton accord. Respect for law is a precondition for the internal negotiations without which Dayton's goal of coexistence between Bosnia's three communities cannot be realised. The outcome of this struggle could thus determine the fate of the Nato-led peace mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

President Plavsic is certainly an improbable heroine, an extreme nationalist who in 1992 embraced the perpetrators of "ethnic cleansing". When her main opponent, Radovan Karadzic, was forced under the Dayton agreement to relinquish public office, she was his choice as a pliable substitute. But Mrs Plavsic has proved less than pliant. Under American pressure, she has declared her readiness to abide by the Dayton accords. And personally, her probity and political courage set her morally apart from the Pale trio of profiteering warlords whose unlawful reign she has vowed to end.

All over Srpska and at every level of administration, those most deeply implicated in wartime atrocities — and in the profiteering that accompanied the fighting — exercise control on behalf of these three. They are Radovan Karadzic, the indicted war criminal and former President who still, in defiance of Dayton, pulls most of the levers of power; Momcilo Krajisnik, the old Karadzic ally whose membership of the tripartite Bosnian federal presidency is a huge obstacle to peace; and Dragan Kijac, whose estimated 30,000 armed security police are involved in everything from policing the black market to bugging the lines of the President and her allies.

Mrs Plavsic's decision to take a stand originated in a meeting last June with Madeleine Albright which convinced her that there was no alternative to Dayton. The next month, she astonished Serbians by publicly denouncing the Karadzic mafia for destroying the State, looting its revenues and reducing most Bosnian Serbs to "abject poverty". She demanded Mr Kijac's resignation as Interior Minister; and when he shrugged that off, exercised her constitutional power to dismiss the Srpska parliament dominated by Mr Karadzic's allies and call fresh elections in October.

The ruling overturning her decision last Friday by Srpska's constitutional court is a telling example of what she denounces as the "terror which prevents people from saying what they think". Jovo Rosic, a judge who had declared his support for the President, had been beaten up so savagely that he was absent, in hospital. Mrs Plavsic has Western support in forging ahead with elections despite the court ruling. She could well lose, and she almost certainly will unless she has access to broadcast media to carry her message to Serb voters. That is practical help the West should provide, with installations under Nato guard. Hardline nationalist that she is, Mrs Plavsic is at least realist enough to say of Richard Holbrooke, Bill Clinton's troubleshooter in Bosnia, that "American or not, we need him". In such realism lies what hope there remains of durable peace.

CRASHES AND BANGS

Stock markets are still overvalued

In the dog days of August, financial markets are as fractious as the tourists who tramp sweatily around Trafalgar Square. With many dealers on holiday, trading is thin and price movements correspondingly volatile. Anticipating a stock market crash has proved as enervating as waiting for the thunderstorm that brings to an end an oppressively hot and humid spell. Is a steep fall in share prices really as inevitable as the rain that clears the air at this time of year?

Yesterday, the crash failed to materialise, just as it had the previous Monday. The FTSE 100 index fell by just 30.8 points, even though the Dow Jones industrial average had posted its second-biggest loss ever on Friday. But the worldwide stock market boom will not last for ever. All the signs are that both Wall Street and London are overvalued and will soon undergo "correction".

What Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, called "irrational exuberance" has been evident in both markets for more than a year. Between his outburst last December and the decline of the past week or two, American shares climbed by another 25 per cent. London has seen a similar bull run. It is hard to believe that such exuberance is justified by the underlying economic performance of the two countries.

In Britain, shares have been buoyed by a Labour Government that proved less threatening than expected and more fiscally responsible than was feared. Yet interest rates are rising, presaging lower growth next year, companies are putting out profit warnings and the strength of sterling is hurting exporters. A strong pound has lured foreign investors into the British stock market; but the same phenomenon is undermining the longer-term attractiveness of its shares.

Perhaps the most ominous sign is that people are starting to talk of a "new era" or a "new paradigm" in Western economies. Inflation has apparently been conquered and the boom-bust cycle brought to an end; shares have nowhere to go but up. These are dangerous predictions, which always seem to accompany the end of a boom, the hubris which is followed by nemesis. It is a feature of capitalism, in stock markets as in the real economy, that prosperity moves in cycles.

That is not to say that either the UK or the US is about to face a crash of the severity of 1987, when the FTSE fell by 23 per cent in two days and 32 per cent in a week. Stock markets could just as easily slide gradually over the next few months, ending the year roughly where they started. Nor is this correction likely to be on the scale of the slump that hit the Tokyo markets in 1990: seven years on, the Nikkei is still at less than half its level at the end of 1989. The UK stock market, by contrast, took only a couple of years to regain its 1987 levels after the crash, and now stands at double that 1987 peak.

If share prices fall again, they are more likely to follow Britain's recent precedent than Japan's. This would be a repositioning of overvalued shares rather than the bursting of a bubble that changes the whole psychology of investment. Shareholders in London and New York who want to catch the peak of the boom might be wise to sell their equities now and put their money on deposit for a while, where they can still earn decent real returns. But those who are holding shares for the very long term can afford to relax: their wealth is unlikely to be wiped out, and in a few years' time, any downturn now should look like not much more than a blip on the chart.

LABOUR'S ROCK POOL

The party's personalities are reflected in the sea

John Prescott is the Dr Doolittle of this Government. That is not a reflection on his idleness; few ministers toil as the Deputy Prime Minister does. Rather, Mr Prescott can talk to the animals. Yesterday, as the photographers captured so well, it was a crab. Asked about the chances of his colleague Peter Mandelson securing election to the party's National Executive Committee, Mr Prescott eyed his catch with its thick protective carapace, eyes permanently on stalks, long-limbed and laterally mobile, and asked "Well Peter, will you get on?".

Mr Prescott may have thought his *jeu d'esprit* would be quickly laughed off. Or perhaps, recognising the paucity of political news in August, he knew precisely how long, how very long, the laugh would last. Pundits even compared it to the famous time when Margaret Thatcher was reputed tp have ordered steak while dining with the Cabinet. "What about the vegetables" she was asked. "Oh, they'll have steak too", she replied — or so the culinary story goes.

Is Mr Mandelson a credible crab? He is certainly much more crab-like than the serpentine figure in which cartoonists delight. And the Labour Party is, altogether, like Cyril Connolly's *Rock Pool*, a struggle for supremacy captured in a watery metaphor. Mr Prescott is himself, clearly, a coelacanth — an ancient creature which should, by evolutionary logic, be extinct. His survival goes to show that natural and logical are very far from being synonyms. Tony Blair is, like the film star whales Orca or Willy, the biggest beast about. Like them, he inspires huge affection even though he is a ruthless predator capable of swallowing scores of individual plankton, Tory backbenchers and other brainless forms of life swept along by the tide.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is something of a shark. The pension companies and privatised utilities certainly think so. Like the shark, Mr Brown cannot rest and devours a huge amount every day. Anyone who has heard of Mr Brown on what he drolly calls "holiday", alternating between bouts on the tennis court and hours devoted to digesting works of Portugese econometrics and Bolivian social theory, will appreciate how his metabolism matches the workaholic of the deep. The Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, is perhaps best cast as a dugong or manatee, a gentle mammal dangerously out of its depth. The Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, has to be a squid: no creature uses ink more aggressively.

Nowhere, however, is the smell fishier than in Scottish waters. Although Mr Blair may bask elegantly in Mediterranean climes, any number of little molluscs cluster unattractively around the waste pipe which is provincial patronage north of the border. Barnacles cling on for all their worth when they should be cleared decisively away. Urchins spread poison and creatures which look to be all jelly lash out painfully. It is to be hoped that when Mr Prescott goes north this week he takes his shrimping-net.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Pensioners' health policy 'shabby'

From Mr P. M. Elton

Sir, Having taken away the tax concession from pensioners who elect to pay private medical insurance, the latest blow now being trailed is that those of us with an income of over £18,000 pa may be "asked" — what a weasel word — to pay for our National Health Service prescriptions (report, August 14).

New Labour proposes to snatch the benefits from pensioners which they have paid for through their NI contributions all of their working lives — many of us since the Attlee Government introduced the scheme. I infinitely prefer old Labour, who would never have contemplated such a shabby idea.

Yours etc,
P. M. ELTON,
2 The Birches, Felsham Road,
Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
August 14.

From Mr Irving Luke

Sir, If the Government really wishes to expedite a reduction in hospital waiting lists it should cast aside party dogma and, instead of adopting the spiteful measure of abolishing tax benefits on private medical insurance for the over-sixties, encourage private healthcare by allowing tax relief for *all* subscribers to such schemes.

Yours faithfully,
IRVING LUKE
(Consultant ophthalmic surgeon),
44 Fairfax Road, NW6.
August 17.

Cost of medicines

From the President of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

Sir, It is a curious argument which suggests that a seller is exploiting a hard-up buyer by offering to sell goods at a cut price. Yet when pharmaceutical companies reduce their prices to hospitals facing severe financial pressures to help them afford the medicines that their patients need, you suggest (report, August 12) that this is exploitation because patients may then ask their GPs for further prescriptions costing the full NHS price.

Yes, new medicines are more expensive. Companies now risk more than £200 million and 10 to 12 years of research into a new medicine before it reaches the patient. But far from costing "the NHS millions", as your headline suggests, medicines offer one of the real solutions to the funding problems the NHS faces by reducing or eliminating other forms of treatment.

At the same time the profits that pharmaceutical companies make on the sales of NHS medicines prescribed by both hospitals and GPs are rigorously controlled by the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme. The cost of medicines to the NHS remains far lower than in most comparable European countries, and British doctors also have one of the highest rates of generic prescribing.

We are now able to provide medicines to treat patients better and more quickly than ever before and to tackle conditions in the community much more effectively, often preventing the need for hospital admission. Many patients with heart disease, cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and mental illness have benefited from recent advances.

The real shame is that patients do not always receive such new medicines which, in the long run, can actually save the NHS money and improve treatment.

Yours sincerely,
PETER READ,
President, Association of the
British Pharmaceutical Industry,
12 Whitehall, SW1.
August 12.

Terrorism victims

From Mr R. J. Silburn

Sir, You report (August 13) that the Palestine Liberation Organisation has paid "millions of dollars" to the relatives of the man murdered on the *Achille Lauro*.

Would the IRA consider following this excellent precedent and start paying the relatives of their victims from their ample funds, which presumably will be no longer needed for expenditure on weapons?

Yours sincerely,
R. J. SILBURN,
10 Woodcote Hurst, Epsom, Surrey.
August 13.

Paul or Paula?

From Mr John Fletcher

Sir, In your report (August 12), "Orton's Beatles script is revived by Radio 3", you say that "Paul McCartney apparently did not feature in the script", unlike the other three Beatles. As the script's radio adaptor, I can confirm that he has a wholesome and life-enhancing part — as a woman, the Virgin Mary, no less — and is played in the production (to be broadcast on September 21) by the gifted and elegant young Irish actress, Miss Jacinta Mulcahy.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FLETCHER,
Heronsgate,
Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.
August 13.

Call for review of medical training

From Dr John K. Wales

Sir, I share an increasing concern with some of my colleagues about the future of medical education in the UK — a concern enhanced by the increasing demand for a reduction in junior doctors' working hours and by the suggested change in the funding of higher education recently announced by Professor Dearing.

The education of medical students is expensive. A good deal of this expense arises from the requirements of bedside clinical teaching and the length of the course. A reduction in clinical teaching in order to save money is likely to result in more theoretical teaching, as favoured by many European medical schools; it will also reduce the capabilities and clinical effectiveness of medical graduates and the professional aspects of patient care.

There are also concerns that clinical teaching is being undervalued by an undue emphasis on research ratings of medical schools. Many clinical teachers are not employed by universities but by the NHS. Their ability to support medical schools is being eroded by an ever-increasing clinical NHS load.

Medical education is unusual in university terms in that it is vocational: the vast majority of graduates take up paid employment with one employer, the NHS. Would it not seem more logical for the overall control of medical education to pass from the Department for Education and Employment to the Department of Health, or more ideally to an independent medical education authority?

I would therefore suggest that a review into the future of medical education, its structure, function, student recruitment, funding and possible expansion is established, perhaps as a royal commission. British medical schools must retain the ability to produce doctors who have not only the knowledge on which to base their postgraduate education but also the practical abilities to care for patients and maintain the standard of British medicine.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN K. WALES
(Senior Lecturer in Medicine and
Honorary Consultant Physician),
University of Leeds,
Division of Medicine,
General Infirmary, Leeds LS1 3EX.
August 14.

Motorway controls

From Mr Peter Gibbon

Sir, I suspect that the latest government proposals for restricting entry and/or exit on congested motorways (report, August 15) are yet another example of misquoting US experience in an attempt to justify the unjustifiable. The lights on controlled-access highways in the US alternate, during rush hours, between red and green every few seconds.

Their purpose is to limit the vehicles in the entrance lane to one at a time, avoiding bunching, or worse, stopping, where they join the main highway. As such, the lights are safety devices, not blocking devices.

It is difficult to understand why traffic already on a motorway should be regarded as more legitimate than that trying to join it. For example, the traffic on the section of the M25 between junctions 12 and 15 (one of the most congested in the country) could be reduced dramatically by closing all exits which served Heathrow traffic, forcing those vehicles to find another route.

This could also result in significant public purse savings: the Terminal 5 inquiry would rapidly be forced to conclude that the infrastructure to support a new terminal wasn't forthcoming and thus neither should the terminal be. But what good would this serve, since the basic question would not be addressed?

Increase in national wealth is the primary factor in determining motorway demand. Increased wealth results in more private vehicles, the carriage of more goods and in more leisure travel, whether by private or public means. This primary determinant is increased by the "turnpike effect" (so-called because it was observed after the New Jersey Turnpike was built in the US in the 1950s) from which extra traffic, over and above that forecast, actually results from new roadbuilding.

The underlying demand, however, is a product of increases in our standard of living. Surely not even a Labour government is going to try and suppress greater national wealth?

Yours faithfully,
PETER A. GIBBON,
103 Church Street,
Staines, Middlesex.
open_it@btinternet.com
August 17.

Gauging humidity

From Mr D. B. Jenkin

Sir, Professor Maurice Crosland (letter, August 16) is quite right to stress that comfort in warm weather depends on the combination of temperature and humidity, just as the wind speed affects our perception of low temperatures.

Temperature and humidity can be combined into a comfort index, but there appears to be no international standard for calculating its value.

When I recently had to seek the advice of the Meteorological Office on the "comfort-index" values which it had produced for a newspaper many years ago, I was told that I had misunderstood the term and should call it the wind-chill factor. I had to convince the office that wind chill was experienced in winter and comfort indices were needed in warm weather; and when I repeated my request, I was told that nobody at Bracknell had heard of the latter. They would carry out a literature search for a large hourly fee if I so wanted.

I fear that Professor Crosland has a long, hard task if he wants weather forecasts and reports to include the combined effects of temperature and humidity — unless he can persuade the Meteorological Office to consult its pensioners.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. JENKIN
(Gas and oil consultant),
30 Hare Hill Close,
Pyrford, nr Woking, Surrey.
August 16.

Room at the top

From the Chairman of the City of London Law Society

Sir, Dr Mike Wise (letter, August 15) appears to attribute the ills which he sees as besetting the country to the fact that solicitors, barristers and certain other professions draw their recruits from the most intellectually able graduates from the universities. He is wrong.

International companies write their contracts under English law and refer their disputes to England for resolution because they recognise the City of London as a centre of legal excellence.

One consequence of their doing so is that solicitors in the City of London earned £502 million for the country in 1994, £511 million in 1995 and £526 million in 1996.

In order to maintain their preeminent position as a centre of legal excellence and to ensure that the profession continues to earn such large sums for the country as a whole, City firms seek, with some success, to attract and to retain the intellectually able.

It is unclear to me why Dr Wise should decry our success in doing so.

Yours faithfully,
A. PUGH-THOMAS,
Chairman,
The City of London Law Society,
65 Holborn Viaduct, EC1.
August 15.

Post-doctoral research

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, In her letter of August 13, Dr Shirley McCready made the most pertinent remark that the number of post-doctoral scientists working in British universities has trebled in the last 20 years. For any given amount of funding, there will be an optimal number of research workers. If the number is too low, some costly apparatus will be idle, if it is too high, many scientists will have to use poor equipment.

Moreover, if the number of claimants for limited funding is too large, an inordinate amount of scientists' time will be wasted on writing and refereeing grant applications that cannot be financed however good they are.

There can be little doubt that the British system now has many more claimants (including post-docs) for the available funding than would give the best scientific output. Reducing the number cannot be a quick or painless (or even fair) operation, but unless the need to do so is explicitly accepted, the future of British science looks bleak to me.

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College, Cambridge.

Animate objects

From Dr G. L. Bolt

Sir, The "de-ranged" lawnmowers, alarmed parking meters and mad prawns (letters, August 12, 13 and 14) are surely outnumbered by the floods of disabled toilets.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. BOLT,
11 Nelson Street,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
August 17.

From Mrs Shirley M. Large

Sir, Perhaps the alarmed parking meters and de-ranged lawn mowers are concerned at the threat of the "large plant crossing" roadways under construction.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY M. LARGE,
Charlecote Barn,
Little Wolford, Warwickshire.
August 13.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

No apologies over British India

From Mr Richard Westwood-Brookes

Sir, During this season of politically correct contrition over the behaviour of our forefathers in "oppressed" India (letters, August 15; report, August 16), perhaps it would be worth those who are so eager to seek constant apologies from the British bearing in mind that this nation at least appears to have learned vast lessons from past mistakes — which is more than can be said for many.

Great Britain has lived at peace with itself for more than 250 years and has striven to build a genuine multi-ethnic and multicultural society, which despite disparaging comment from certain self-interests continues to build with considerable success.

Perhaps those eternally demanding that the British should bow their heads in shame for the actions of those who lived, for the most part, long before we were born should be better employed in making such demands from people whose atrocities are within living memory — like the Japanese, the Chinese, the Russians, the Americans, many African states and of course the Indians themselves.

Yours,
RICHARD WESTWOOD-BROOKES,
The Old Post Office,
Ashford Carbonell,
Ludlow, Shropshire.

From Mr J. P. Govindia

Sir, I would like to thank the British media for their excellent coverage of the 50th anniversary of the independence of India and Pakistan.

For the many people from the subcontinent who have been welcomed in this country and prospered here, the generous coverage really shows the magnanimous character of the British people. It is hard to imagine any other former ruling nation making the same effort to celebrate such an occasion. For the younger generation of Asians the coverage provided a sense of pride and a balanced sense of identity. For many of the older generation, painful nostalgia.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. GOVINDIA,
63 St Andrews Drive,
Stanmore, Middlesex.
August 15.

Hotels on the Rhine

From Dr Raymond Sharp

Sir, My recollection of the Petersberg Hotel is not quite as epoch-making as the events described in your report and Professor Roger Morgan's letter (August 6, 15). Soon after VE-Day, 936 Port Construction Company, Royal Engineers, of which I was second in command, was sent to the American Zone to remove all the demolished Rhine bridges between Remagen and Cologne. This was vital work to enable barge traffic to resume carrying food and other supplies for the German population.

My enterprising commanding officer took over the Petersberg Hotel as our company headquarters and demanded of the hotel manager, still resident with his staff, to be shown Neville Chamberlain's room so he could occupy it. The manager threw open the first-floor bedroom door to reveal a large hole in the outside wall caused by an American army shell. My CO had to make do with the adjoining room.

We occupied the Petersberg Hotel for nine months, enjoying its luxury after hard days exploding depth charges to disperse the damaged bridges. My office was in a very natty Art Deco cocktail bar spurned by the CO, who installed himself in the more exotic gold, orange and black Chinese bar. The hotel cellar was at our disposal and to this day I still feel glutted with Rhine wine.

Yours sincerely,
RAYMOND SHARP,
6 Badgers Wood, Caterham, Surrey.
August 16.

Operating a retractor

From Dr Diana Griffith

Sir, The response to both Professor Gareth Jones and Dr Robert Bruce-Chwatt (letters, August 12) must be the classic description of an anaesthetist: "someone half asleep bending over someone half awake".

Yours etc,
DIANA GRIFFITH,
27 Southway, Totteridge, N20.

School food

From Mr P. W. Esling

Sir, The hard-boiled egg which Mr Simon Martin found in his bread and butter pudding (letter, August 11; further letters, August 12, 14 and 16) may have been a gastronomic treat, but at Caldy Grange Grammar School, some 65 years ago, what the maths master ladled from the enamel soup tureen certainly was not. It was a well-worn string dishcloth.

What gave a certain poignancy to the moment was the fact that the master was just concluding the serving of seconds.

Yours faithfully,
PETER W. ESLING,
3 Llysnewydd Cottages,
Drefach Felindre,
Llandysul, Cardiganshire.
August 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
August 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this evening visited the Stakis Royal Deeside Hotel, Ballater, Aberdeenshire, and accepted a cheque representing funds raised for the Society by the staff and guests at Stakis Hotels throughout Scotland.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire (Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse).

Birthdays today

The American President celebrates his 51st birthday today. Commandant Daphne Blundell, former director, WRNS, 81; Mr Gordon Brand, Jr, golfer, 39; Lord Cocks of Hartcliffe, 68; Mr John Deacon, guitarist and songwriter, 46; Mr K.H.M. Dixon, former chairman, Rowntree, 68; the Marquess of Douro, 52; Mr C.J. Driver, Master, Wellington College, 58; Dame Rose Heilbron, former High Court judge, 83; Mr E.R. Heward, former Chief Master of the Supreme Court, 85; Professor Sir David Hopwood, geneticist, 64; Mr Stephen Hughes, MEP, 45; Mr Richard Ingrams, former Editor, *Private Eye*, 60; Mr C.W. Jonas, corporate property strategist, 56; Mr David Lodge, actor, 76; the Right Rev Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, 48; Mr Michael Roper, former Keeper of Public Records, 65; Mr Willie Shoemaker, racehorse trainer, 66; Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, former superintendent-in-chief, St John Ambulance Brigade, 64; Mr G.W. von Mallinckrodt, president, Schroders, 67; Dr G.E. Watkins, chairman and managing director, Conoco UK, 54; Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir James Watt, 83; Mr Henry Wyndham, chairman, Sotheby's UK, 44.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Colin Lawler, Curate, Moulescoomb (Chichester): to be Team Vicar (same benefice).

The Rev Nicolas Leigh-Hunt, Team Vicar, Wexcombe (Salisbury): to be *also* Rural Dean of Pewsey Deanery (same diocese).

The Rev Judy Lynas, Assistant Curate, Lytchett Minster (Salisbury): to be NSM Curate, Longfleet (same diocese).

The Rev Ralph Mann, Priest-in-Charge, Broadwell, Evenlode, Oddington and Adlestrop (Gloucester): to be NSM Priest-in-Charge, Upton St Leonards (same diocese).

The Rev William Marston, Team Vicar, Gossops Green (Chichester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Middleton-on-Sea St Nicholas (same diocese).

The Rev Jonathan Meyrick, Team Rector, Tisbury (Salisbury): to be also Rural Dean of Chalke Deanery (same diocese).

The Rev Jacqueline Mould, Assistant Curate, Drumragh w Mountfield (Derry & Raphoe, Church of Ireland): to be NSM Curate, Kinson (Salisbury).

The Rev Jeremy Mould, Curate, Drumragh w Mountfield (Derry and Raphoe, Church of Ireland): to be Curate, Kinson Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Bill Musk, Team Vicar, Maghull (Liverpool): to be Vicar, Holy Trinity & St Matthias, Tulse Hill (Southwark).

The Rev Hugh Palmer, Associate Vicar, Fulwood (Sheffield): to be Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Robert Parrish, Assistant Curate, Leckhampton St Philip and St James w Cheltenham St James (Gloucester): to be Priest Vicar, Llandaff Cathedral.

The Rev Graham Plastow, Vicar, St Michael, Enfield (London): to be Rector, Monken Hadley (same diocese).

The Rev Mark Prevett, Rector, Blaina and Nantyglo (Monmouth): to be Team Vicar, Halesowen with special responsibility for Lapal (Worcester).

Mists Rising off the Arran Hills by William McTaggart, one of the works shipped to South Africa

Reminders of the auld country auctioned

By John Shaw

PICTURES collected by a South African industrialist to bring back memories of his Scottish childhood are expected to fetch more than £100,000 at auction in Perthshire.

Thomas Kirkness loved his homeland from afar and had 26 paintings sent out to Pretoria from 1929 to 1935. They include eight by William McTaggart (1835-1910), the Scottish landscape painter. The collection goes under the Sotheby's hammer at Gleneagles Hotel on August 26.

Mr Kirkness's father John was born near Kirkwall on Orkney and his mother came from Leith. They emigrated to South Africa and founded a building and brick-making business there in the 1880s.

Thomas was born in the Orange Free State in 1886 but was educated in Scotland, first at Kirkwall and then in Edinburgh. It was an upbringing he never forgot, even when he returned to the family business.

As the firm prospered he began to buy paintings by Scottish artists. Although unable to return himself, he employed two firms of dealers to act for him. They were sent plans of Mr Kirkness's home in Pretoria and he specified the size and style of pictures he wanted for different rooms.

Paintings shipped out included a £45 McTaggart oil entitled *Breezie Day* now expected to make £5,000-£7,000. A £120 McTaggart oil entitled *Children on the Shore* is forecast to make £20,000-£30,000.

After the painter became known to a wider audience, the industrialist paid £500 for *Mists Rising off the Arran Hills*, now estimated at £30,000-£50,000. It was painted at Carradale on Kintyre where McTaggart spent the summers of 1883 and 1885. He travelled in the summer and early autumn of nearly every year to paint seascapes and moved from Edinburgh to Broomieknowe in 1889. He spent the rest of his life there and the local countryside became an important source of inspiration.

University news

Cambridge

King's College

Elected into a professorial fellowship from September 24 for one year: Eduardo Batalha Viveiros.

Sussex

The university has made two appointments to Chairs in the History of Art:

Craig Clunas, Reader in History of Art at Sussex, to a Professorship in the History of Art from July 1, 1997. He was formerly at the Victoria and Albert Museum as Assistant Keeper in the Far Eastern Department and later Senior Research Fellow in Chinese Studies.

Deborah Cherry, at present Senior Lecturer in the History of Art at Manchester University, to a Professorship in the History of Art from September 15, 1997.

The following have been promoted to professorships from July 1, 1997.

Paul Gough, Reader in Electronic Engineering and Computer Studies, to a Professorship in Space Science in the School of Engineering.

Michael Hobday, Senior Fellow, to Professorial Fellow in the Science Policy Rsearch Unit.

Nicholas von Tunzelmann, Reader, to a Professorship in the Economics of Science and Technology in the Science Policy Research Unit.

Peter Way, Reader, to a Professorship of American History in the School of English and American Studies.

Michael Pendlebury, Reader, to a Professorship in Experimental Physics in the School of Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science.

New appointments

Brian Roberts, Professor of Engineering, to be Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

Michael Hawkins, Reader in History in the School of English and American Studies, to be Director of Student Services.

Marc Williams to be Director of the Graduate Research Centre for the Comparative Study of Culture, Development and the Environment.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: James Crichton, the "Admirable Crichton", athlete, scholar, poet and linguist, Eliock, Dumfriesshire, 1560; Gerbrand van den Eeckhout, painter, Amsterdam, 1621; John Dryden, Poet Laureate 1670-89, Northampton, 1631; John Flamstead, first Astronomer Royal 1675-1719, Denby, Derbyshire, 1646; John Brand, antiquary and topographer, Washington, Co Durham, 1744; James Hall, historian and poet, Philadelphia, 1793; James Nasmyth, inventor of the steam hammer, Edinburgh, 1808; Charles Doughty, traveller in Arabia, Leiston, Suffolk, 1843; Orville Wright, pioneer of aviation, Dayton, Ohio, 1871; Georges Enesco, violinist and composer, Liveni, Romania, 1881; Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel, fashion designer, Issoire, France, 1883; Arthur Waley, orientalist, London, 1889; Ogden Nash, writer of humorous verse, Rye, New York, 1902.

DEATHS: Augustus, Roman Emperor 27BC-AD14, Nola, near Naples, AD14; Andrea Palladio, architect, Vicenza, 1580; Blaise Pascal, philosopher, Paris, 1662; Jan De Witt, republican, assassinated in The Hague, 1672; Robert Bloomfield, poet, Shefford, Bedfordshire, 1823; Sir Martin Archer Shee, President of the Royal Academy 1830-45, Brighton, 1850; Charles Gerhardt, chemist, Strasbourg, 1856; George Smith, archaeologist, Aleppo, Syria, 1876; Richard Burdon Haldane, 1st Viscount Haldane, creator of the Territorial Army, Cloan, Tayside, 1928; Sergei Diaghilev, impresario, Venice, 1929; Sir Henry Wood, conductor of the Proms concerts 1895-1944, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, 1944; Subhas Chandra Bose, Indian nationalist, Taiwan, 1945; Groucho Marx, comic actor, Santa Monica, California, 1977.

The first English colonists arrived in America on the coast of Maine, 1605.

Gary Powers, the American U2 spy-plane pilot, was sentenced to ten years' detention by a Soviet court, 1960.

Poland became the first country in Eastern Europe to end one-party rule when Solidarity's Tadeusz Mazowiecki became Prime Minister, 1989.

Royal engagement

The Prince of Wales will open the Children's Memorial Playground at Stirling Royal Infirmary NHS Trust, Livilands, Stirling, at 3.00.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. Curtis-Raleigh and Miss H. Pustam

The engagement is announced between Giles, eldest son of the late Judge Nigel Curtis-Raleigh and of Dr Jean Curtis-Raleigh, of Hammersmith, London, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Roopchand Pustam, of Swindon, Wiltshire.

Mr A.J.W. Jewhurst and Miss S.M. Gerard-Pearse

The engagement is announced between Allen, son of Mr and Mrs John Jewhurst, of Whitstable, Kent, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Gerard-Pearse, of Oxted, Surrey.

Mr J.H. Macintosh and Miss S.J. Atkinson

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr Alexander Macintosh and Mrs Jane Macintosh, both of south London, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bruce Atkinson, of Vancouver Island, Canada.

Mr A.R.B. Shepard and Miss C.A.B. Sitrick

The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Giles Shepard, of Nether Wallop, Hampshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Baker Sitrick, of New York City.

Marriage

Mr G.W. Barker and Miss E.R. Sherlock

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 16, 1997, at All Saints' Church, Gosforth, of Mr Guy Barker, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Barker, of Holbrook, Suffolk, to Miss Emma Sherlock, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Sherlock, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne. Canon John R. Little officiated.

Latest wills

The 2nd **Baron Rotherwick**, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £5,972,301 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives.

The 5th **Earl Sondes**, Vice-Chairman of Gillingham Football Club, of London SW1, left estate valued at £427,598 gross, nil net.

Sir Rupert **Hardy**, Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding Household Cavalry Regiment 1952-56, of Guilsborough, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £792,647 net.

The Hon Jocelyne **Hotham**, of Acomb, York, left estate valued at £684,445 net.

She left £30,000 to the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases.

Lady **Mellor**, of Smallfield, Surrey, left estate valued at £474,999 net.

She left £5,000 to the Celia Hammond Animal Trust.

Lady **Butterworth**, of Ollerton, Knutsford, Cheshire, left estate valued at £868,082 net.

She left £1,000 to All Saints Church, Marbull, Knutsford.

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Come to terms with God and you will prosper; that is the way to mend your fortune. Accept instruction from his lips and take his words to heart. Job 22 : 21,22

BIRTHS

AHMED - On 14th August 1997, to Angela Virginia (née Yearwood) and Nicholas John, a wonderful son, Max Yearwood.

AL-SHARRATLY - On August 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Heba and Nayef, a beautiful daughter, Haia.

ASHLEY - On 29th July to Lucy (née Cook) and John, a daughter, Madeleine Helena Josephine, a sister to Thomas and William.

BINIARIS - On August 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Stella and Tony, a daughter, Katerina.

BRISTOWE - On August 15th 1997, to Marie (née Jebb) and Anthony, a daughter Isabel Mary.

BRZEZKWINSKI - On August 9th, to Simon and Emma (née Burdett), a daughter, Lydia Constance Susan.

GREENWOLD - On August 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Natalie (née Onona) and Philip, a daughter, Phoebe Rebecca, a sister for Benjamin and Nathaniel.

LEONIDA - On August 15th at The Portland Hospital to Sharon and Bernard, a daughter, Kristin Imaa, a sister for Alexander.

LERMAN - On August 15th, 1997 at UCH, London, to Kathy (née Coppock) and Tony, a daughter, Emma, a sister for Ben and Rachel.

LEVITT - On 14th August 1997 to Emily (née Saylless) and Aldhun, a son, Frederick Falkner.

NAPIER - On 16th August 1997, to Nicky (née Sykes) and Alex, a daughter, Molly Rose, a sister for Jack and Sam.

QUILTER - On August 13th 1997, to Jenny and Guy, a son, (Henry), a brother for William.

RYCROFT - To Vinciane (née de Bohun) and David, a daughter, Amalée, on Wednesday 13th August.

STRAUB - On August 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Angela and Christoph a wonderful baby boy, Yannick Julian Unser Sonnenpal.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

KINGTON-WITHERS - George and Betty on 19th August 1947 at Grace Church, Amherst, Massachusetts, U.S.A. now at Veryan Vineyard, Truro, Cornwall TR2 5PS.

DEATHS

APPLEYARD - W. Philip Appleyard OBE, on August 16, peacefully after a short illness, aged 74. Husband of Jill, father of Lyanne & "Danding" to Giles. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Martock, Somerset at 2.00pm, Friday, 22nd August. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to National Hockey Foundation, The Stadium, Silbury Blvd, Milton Keynes, MK9 1HA. A memorial service will be arranged later.

BELL - James Peter Maclean C.B.E., B.Sc., C.Eng. on August 11th, aged 73, peacefully at home. Beloved husband of Pat, brother to Anne, father of Peter, Steve, Janet and Richard, and grandfather of Jenna, Julia, William, Joe, Paddy, Katherine and Georgia. Funeral at Hendon Crematorium on Friday August 22nd at 2pm. Flowers maybe sent via Kelly F/D, 9 The Parade, Holders Hill Road, London NW7 1NA. Tel: 0181 346 0174, or donations to the Heart and Lung Foundation.

BENNETT - Geoffrey E. C.Eng F.I.E.E. on 17th August at home, beloved husband of Joyce, dearly loved father of Graham and John and dear grandfather of Elena and Philip. Funeral Service to be held on Wednesday 27th August at 2.45 at Eltham Crematorium. No flowers by request, donations to Doctor D. Cunningham's Research Fund, Dept. of Medicine, The Royal Marsden Hospital, Downs Rd, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PT.

BOOTH - On Friday 15th August, at Allington Court Nursing Home, George in his 86th year. Beloved husband of the late Zoe. Adored by his daughters Ann, Stella, Lindy, and Patsy, their husbands and children. He will be remembered with fondness by all the family and friends with whom he kept in touch through his essays for so many years. Our thanks to those whose considerate nursing care helped him through these last five years of illness. Private Cremation. Notice of a Memorial Service to follow.

BRELSFORD - Jeremy died 15th August, aged 42. Missed by his family and friends. Funeral Romsey Abbey 12 noon 22nd August. Flowers or donations for Cancer Research to A.H. Chester, F/D, Romsey, Hants.

BROCK - R.O.C. on August 16th 1997 peacefully at home. Alan Edward aged 66 years of Bungay. Loving husband of Marie. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Bungay on Friday August 22nd at 2.45pm. Followed by cremation at Gorleston Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research may be sent c/o Cossey Funeral Services, 12 Chaucer Street, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 1DT.

CHATFIELD-RUDE - The Rev Canon Henry OBE, on August 15th at Monmouth aged 88. Husband of the late Chrys, dearest father of June and Clare (deceased), grandfather and great grandfather, friend to Muriel. Late India Ecclesiastical Establishment C.F., Rector of Michelmersh and Timsbury, Chaplain the English Church Madeira, Chaplain St. George's Church, Lisbon, Hon. Canon Gibraltar Cathedral. Funeral service, Wednesday, August 20th at 2.30 pm, St Mary's Church Michelmersh, followed by interment. Enquiries A.H. Chester, Funeral Directors, Romsey, Hants.

CHURCH - Peacefully on August 14th 1997, Phyllis Mary, very dear sister of the late Margaret and Christine. Funeral service at Tidebrook Church, Wadhurst at 2.45pm on Friday August 22nd, followed by private cremation. Flowers may be sent c/o E.E. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1SD.

COSTA - Alexander George - Late Director of E. Costa & Co. Ltd., on 15th August 1997 at Impruneta, Italy, aged 90. Father of Luigi, Livia, Sandra and Annabella; loving grandfather of Françoise, Marie-Louise, Giovanni, Giulia, Annelise, Leandra and Julian; brother of Angeli Lola and uncle of Fiorenza, Giuliano and Beatrice. The funeral has already taken place in Italy.

DACRE of GLANTON - On 15th August at Harwell, Oxon, Alexandra, daughter of the late Field Marshal First Earl Haig and wife of Hugh, Lord Dacre of Glanton, aged 90. Funeral at Church of St Thomas the Martyr, Becket Street, Oxford, on Friday 22nd August at 12 noon. Flowers to the church. Donations to Music Therapy Charity c/o Fennington, Phoenix House, 9 London Road, Newbury RG14 1UH.

DOLAN - Anne. Born 18th September 1932, died August 13th at home in Hammersmith after a long illness wonderfully borne. Leaves behind Matthew and Dom. Funeral at Northiam Crematorium 12 noon Friday August 22nd. No flowers. Donations to Marie Curie c/o Funeral Directors J.H. Kenyon, 0171 229 3810.

DREW - Margaret (Midge), on Friday 15th August, at the Hope Hospital, Manchester, after a short illness, beloved daughter of the late Edward and Margaret Drew, sister of the late Alexander and Gordon and much loved aunt and great aunt who will be sadly missed by her family and many friends. Funeral Service takes place at St Helen's Church, Waddington, Clitheroe, on Friday August 22nd at 11.00am followed by private cremation. No flowers please, but donations for U.G.A.A. Home Life or St. Helen's Church, if so desired, to Bertwistle's Funeral Service, Station Road, Padiham. BB12 8EF. Tel: 01282 771628.

DUNLOP - Francis OBE, Wife of the late Gordon, peacefully on 15th August 1997. Funeral Service to take place Friday 22nd August 2pm, Brockenhurst Parish Church. No flowers by request, donations will be greatly received and divided between Brockenhurst Church and Broughton Church. All enquiries Haynes Funeral Directors. Tel: 01785 950572.

ELLIOT - John. On 14th August at his home in Bobrest after a long illness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Elizabeth, dearly loved father of Julia and Kate, father-in-law of Glynne and proud grandfather of Rodd and Martin. Cremation South Bristol Crematorium 1pm Friday August 22nd. No flowers please, donations if wished to the Parkinson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0EA.

FEAR - On August 16th at his home in Exmouth, John Fear M.A., FRCO, (CHM), ADCM, ARCM., LRAM., One time organist and choirmaster at All Saints Church, Langham Place, London. Loved brother of Eileen. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church Budleigh Salterton, Friday August 22nd at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Hospicare or The Dunkey Sanctuary c/o Palmers Funeral Service, 45 High Street, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6LF.

FEGGETTER - Suddenly at home on August 15th Doris (née Weightman) of Ryemond, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Beloved wife of George and dear mother of Jeremy and Amanda. Funeral service at St. George's Church, Jesmond on Thursday 21st August 2.00pm followed by private interment.

FERGUSSON - Dr. Patrick Drummond, on 18th August, in London, aged 78. Beloved father of Jamie, Madeline and Lucy. Funeral at St. John's, Hyde Park Crescent, on Thursday 21st August at 12 noon. Enquiries to John Noden, 0181 969 1819.

GAMBLEY - Kenneth, Royce on August 15th, after a short illness, aged 76 years, of Abbotts Ann, Andover. Husband of the late Stella Gandley. Funeral service to take place on Thursday 21st August at St Mary the Virgin, Abbotts Ann, at 10am followed by cremation at Salisbury crematorium. Further enquiries to Dunning Funeral Service 01264 334436.

GAUDWEN - Patrick Terence (Terry) O'Kelly Gaudwen OBE, Formerly of H.M. Diplomatic Service on August 15th at home in Little Commeron, East Sussex surrounded by his family. His son David and daughter Jane along with his grandchildren Rebecca, Georgina and Dominic, his close relatives and many friends mourn him deeply and salute his courage. Requiem Mass on August 21st at 2.30pm at St Mary Magdalene's, Upper Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea followed by cremation at Eastbourne at 4pm. Enquiries to Mummery, Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea. (01424) 730418.

GARNETT - John, CBE, died peacefully on 14th August on holiday on the Island of Paros with his loving wife Julia and his darling youngest daughters Charity and Victoria. Most loving father of Christopher, Virginia, Nicola and William, devoted brother and uncle, proud and adoring grandfather. Thanksgiving service at St James's, Prebend Street, Islington at 10.30am on Friday 22nd August followed by funeral at St. Helen's, Isle of Wight at 5 o'clock. Flowers or donations to St James's or St Helen's in his memory. Enquiries to W.G. Hillier, 91-95, Essex Road, London N1. 0171 226 3866. Dress happily. A memorial service will be announced later.

GRAY - Professor Charles, on August 15th, dearly loved husband of Jessie, of Leatherhead, Surrey.

HEYGATE - Revd. Jack Heygate very peacefully at Burford Hospital on August 16th 1997 aged 86. Beloved husband of Rix Heygate, and loving daughter to the late Sir Bond and John Harris. Funeral Service to take place at Lenfield Parish Church on Friday August 22nd at 11.30am. Flowers or donations for Help the Aged or Burford Hospital Comforts Fund, to E. Taylor & Son, 21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon OX18 3LG. Tel: 01993 842421.

HOLTON - William Edward Spencer MBE of The Grange, Rampton, Cambs, died on Saturday August 16th 1997 aged 85 years. Enquiries to F.W. Cook Funeral Service. Tel: 01954 260335.

HOOTON - Amy. Beloved mother of Ian, loving sister of Wally, aunt of Charley and Cooper. Peacefully at home on 16th August 1997. Loved and missed by all who knew her. Service at St. Peter's Church, Headbourne Worthy, Winchester on Thursday 21st August at 11.15am for family and close friends. Cremation private. No flowers please, donations to the Royal Marsden Hospital c/o Jas. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester SO23 0HU. Celebration and Thanksgiving Service date to be announced later.

HUSTLER - On August 16th 1997 at Allerston, Pickering, North Yorkshire, Richard Geoffrey husband of the late Ann and loved father and grandfather. Service at The Church of St John the Evangelist, Allerston on Thursday August 21st at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Marie Curie Nurses and Allerston Church.

JACKSON - On August 13th 1997, Robert Frederick, ESQ of Charity Hall, Fowlmere, formerly of 90 Sloane Royal, husband of Monica, father of Joanna, William, Lucy and Thomas. Requiem Mass at Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge on Thursday August 28th 1997 at 2pm. No flowers, donations if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society or Talking Books for the Blind, to E. Simons Funeral Directors, 45 Moorfield Road, Duxford, Cambs. CB2 4PP. Tel: 01223 833463.

KERNER - Elly (née Jepsen). Peacefully at home in Weybridge on 15th August 1997 aged 78 years after a long illness bravely borne with great courage. Widow of Wilhelm Adolf Kerner deeply loved mother of Sigrid, Redhood and Michiel and mother-in-law of Horst, Jane and Alison and a very special grandmother to Simon, Nutcracker, Katje, Jan, Sam, Charlie and Jack. Cremation at Randalls Park, Leatherhead on 29th August 1997 at 11.30am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research c/o F.W. Chitty & Co., 45 Elmgrove Road, Weybridge Surrey KT13 8ZB. Tel: 01932 842220. Interment at Westerveldt at Velsen, The Netherlands will follow at a later date.

KUMAR - Doctor Mrs Manorama Kumar on 16th August. Beloved wife of Sheo and dear mother of Rajesh and Hiroth. Funeral Service at South Essex Crematorium, Upminster on Saturday 23rd August at 11am. Flowers may be sent c/o B.F. Mulley & Son, 254 St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex. Tel: 01708 220330.

LAWSON - (née Godfrey). On 3rd August, in Herefordshire, Winifred aged 84 years. Ex St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. A loss to her family and many friends.

MARCHWOOD - Theodosia Tessa Jane (née Norris), adored wife of David and mother of Peter, Nicholas and Edward. Loved by so many. Peacefully at St Luke's Hospital, Oxford on 17th August after battling against impossible odds for over eight years. Family funeral. A memorial service will be arranged later.

MARTEN - Lieutenant Commander George Gonzalo Marten LVO DSC Royal Navy. Deeply beloved husband of Mary Anne, beloved father and grandfather. Died 15th August 1997. Funeral Tuesday 26th August at 3.00pm, Witchampton Church, Dorset. Enquiries to Charles Snell & Son, Funeral Directors, 15 West Street, Wimborne. Tel: 01202 882372.

MICKERSON - John Edmund. Died at home on August 16th, 1997. Family funeral service at St Mary's Church, Llanfair Waterdine. Memorial Service All Saints Church, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, 2.30pm, Saturday 23rd September. No flowers please, donations to Cancer Bacton Unit, Hereford County Hospital.

NOBLE - Peter, author, journalist and broadcaster died peacefully at home August 17th. Funeral Friday August 22nd 11am Golders Green Crematorium. We loved him so much. Mary, Katina, Sara, Nicholas.

PARKER - Joan Gladys (Dudie) of Rye on August 17th. Wife of the late Doctor Trevor Parker. Cremation at Charing Crematorium, Chartham, near Ashford, Kent at 11.30am on Thursday 21st August. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to the Royal National Throat Institute. Enquiries to Ellis Bros. 01797 222394.

ROBSON - Mary Galbraith. Peacefully at home after a short illness on 17th August, 1997 aged 74 years. Wife of the late Donald Edward, much loved mother of Andrew, Simon, Michael and James, grandmother of Katharine and Rebecca. Cremation at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip at 3.30pm on Friday 22nd August. Enquiries to L.Grant Limited, 104 Pinner Road, Northwood, HA6 1BS. Tel: 01923 825872.

SARDYS - Julian George Winston QC, peacefully at home on 15th August 1997, after a long and courageous fight against pancreatic cancer. Much loved and loving husband to Elizabeth, father to Lucy, Duncan, Jonathan and Roderick and loyal friend. Funeral and Thanksgiving Service at St Peter's Church, Humbledon, Surrey on Friday 22nd August at 3pm, followed by interment at St Mary's Church, Shackleford. No flowers please. Enquiries and donations if desired to Macmillan Fund or Salvation Army c/o J. Gostage & Son, Funeral Directors, Hare Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3BP. (01483 416403).

SAUNDERS - Rolf Fabian. Died peacefully, after a long illness, in Hyde Crook Home Nursing Home, Frampton, Dorset on 15th August. Devoted husband of Dora. His funeral service will be held at Weymouth Crematorium on Friday 22nd August at 3.30pm. Family flowers only please. Enquiries, Cotton & Son, Weymouth. Tel: 01305 767676.

SCOTT - On August 16, peacefully, John Elsworth Rose, DSC, aged 77. Beloved husband of Alison, brother of Peter, father of Michael and Deborah, and much-loved Grandpa and uncle; the best of friends, the greatest fun - he will be so much missed by all of us. Funeral service for family and neighbours at St. Mary's Church, Meyrey Hampton, on August 27 at 11am, followed by a private cremation. A service of thanksgiving will be arranged in Herefordshire later for all his many friends. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to the FAAOA Aviation Scholarship Trust, 94 Piccadilly, London W1V 0BP, or the League of Friends of Fairford Hospital, 17 Barford St, Lechlade, Glos.

SIGLEY - At home in Derbyshire on 13th August, Sigi (Marjorie T. Sigley), writer, professor. Funeral in Boston. Beautiful Service in London to be announced later. Enquiries Mellor & Smith F/D. Tel: (01298) 77703.

SWANN - Peacefully in London on August 11th Doris widow of Cecil G H Swann and mother of Yvonne and the late Hodson and Gordon. Requiem Mass at the Carmelite Priory Church, Kensington Church Street today, Tuesday 19th August at 10.00am.

TANNER - William E. Tanner 'Nobbly' on August 16th 1997, in Barnet General Hospital, peacefully, after a brief illness. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium 12 noon, Saturday August 23rd 1997. Donations in lieu of flowers to Cancer Research Fund, c/o Leverton & Sons. Tel: 0171 387 6075.

TRUSCOTT - Edmund Francis Walter OBE, peacefully at home on August 14th 1997 at the age of 79. Dearly loved husband of Ailie (née Robertson) and father of John. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Thursday 21st August at 12 noon.

WAKETOWE - On August 14th, Jeremy R.B. Husband of Hendon, retired Lecturer in Education, University of Exeter, Funeral Service at the Exeter & Devon Crematorium on Friday August 22nd at 2.30pm. No flowers please, donations if desired to the Exeter & District Hospice, c/o Le Roy Funeral Service, 30 Alphington Road, Exeter EX2 8HH.

WANSBOROUGH - On August 13th, suddenly at home Nancy (née Joy), aged 82, widow of George. Private family funeral. Thanksgiving service to be announced later. Donations if desired to MIND or The British Institute of Industrial Therapy c/o Steel & Son, Chesil House, Chesil Street, Winchester.

WELLS - Unexpectedly, Martin Frederick. Dearly loved husband of Angela and proud and loving father of Matthew and Zoe. Family funeral at St Lawrence Church, Wichenford, Worcestershire on Friday 22nd August at 11.00am. Family flowers. Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation c/o E. J. Cossey & Son, 63-70 Cornbrook Road, Worcester. Tel: 01905 22094.

WILSON - Peacefully at Hospice Home Pentlow House, Edinburgh, on August 16th 1997, aged 97. Loving mother of Ruth, Monica and David and devoted grandmother to their children. Funeral Service at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield, at 1.30pm on Friday August 22nd followed by burial at the Dean Cemetery.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HITCHINS - Elizabeth. A memorial service to give thanks for the life of Elizabeth, wife of Robert, who died peacefully at La Haye de Pulas, Castel, Guernsey C.I. on Wednesday 23rd July will be held at St. Saviours Church, Guernsey on Thursday, 4th September at 11 am.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

TAYLOR - Lads, although you left us 18th August 1994, we never forget you & miss you every day. Jack & Kenton.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Over the Bank Holiday period the following deadline will apply:

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Please send Court Page announcements by post/fax to: Miss J. Noonan, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN.

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Please include in all correspondence: a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent, a daytime and home telephone number and address.

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OBITUARIES

CONLON NANCARROW

Conlon Nancarrow, American composer, died in Mexico City on August 10 aged 84. He was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, on October 27, 1912.

Conlon Nancarrow was one of this century's most original and fascinating composers. Using the antiquated technology of the mechanical player piano, doggedly punching his own piano rolls hole by hole, he produced innovative music of great rigour and complexity that was at the same time humorous, accessible and highly dramatic. An individualist who spent much of his life in Mexico, out of the mainstream of modern musical life, he nevertheless had a far-reaching influence on contemporary music, with such leading composers as György Ligeti and Elliott Carter among his many admirers.

Conlon Nancarrow was born on the border of Texas and Arkansas in the appropriately named town of Texarkana, where his father was a businessman who later became mayor. Nancarrow had a fiery and rebellious nature which his father tried to subdue by sending him to military school. This turned out to be a mistake, because Nancarrow, already a trumpet player, became interested in music — particularly jazz, which was to be an important influence in his own work.

In desperation his father sent him to Vanderbilt to study engineering, but he soon dropped out and decided to go to Cincinnati to pursue his musical interests. There he heard and was influenced by Earl Hines, Art Tatum and Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. He also got married, to Helen Rigby in 1932: he was 20; she was 16.

Next Nancarrow went to study counterpoint with Roger Sessions in Boston, where he also discovered politics. It was the time of Roosevelt and the "New Deal", and a time when the Communist Party appealed to a wide range of American artists and intellectuals. Nancarrow involved himself in fundraising for the Communists and when the party came to recruit for people to fight in the Spanish Civil War, Nancarrow joined the Lincoln Brigade. It was both a crucial and mysterious episode of his life, a time of hunger, illness, wounds and dramatic retreats and escapes. Back home in Texarkana he was lionised and celebrated as a local hero.

Soon afterwards he moved to New York, where he immediately became involved in the contemporary music scene and where he met and became friends with Aaron Copland and his near contemporary, Elliott Carter.

But Nancarrow became increasingly disillusioned both with mainstream communism and with the few concert performances of his increasingly adventurous music. The last straw came when he discovered that some of his former comrades had been refused exit visas by the State Department because of their Spanish Civil War record. Nancarrow was refused one too, as a "premature anti-Fascist". Since without a visa a US citizen could only go to Canada or Mexico, he emigrated to Mexico City, where the climate and politics were more to his liking and where the US dollar went a long way.

Nancarrow began to wonder how he could do without live performers, and thus ensure perfect performances whenever his music was played. So when in 1947 he received an inheritance from his parents, he went to New York to buy a player piano and have a machine custom-made which would enable him to punch his own piano rolls.

Back in Mexico, Nancarrow was now set up for the great work of his life, the *Studies for Player Piano*, a modest title for a vast achievement. There are now more than fifty Studies, ranging in duration from one to ten minutes.

Each Study is an exercise in counterpoint and, particularly, canon. The thoroughness with which Nancarrow explored this type of construction can only be compared to Bach, his favourite composer and, along with Stravinsky and jazz, the most important influence in his music.

Pitch and time relationships, and especially the relationships between different speeds, are Nancarrow's chief concerns in the Studies — but this is to make the music sound dry and unappealing, where in fact it is uniquely exhilarating and full of humour and drama.

In Study 21, the so-called Canon X, one voice starts slowly in the bass while a fast voice begins in the high register. The two voices speed up and slow down respectively until they cross at a certain place (hence the title) and by the end, the fast one has slowed down and the slow one has speeded up to an incredible tempo, to dazzling effect.

As he went on, the mathematical relationships Nancarrow used became increasingly complex, with accelerations, irrational numbers and mind-bending three-part Studies like Nos 41a, 41b and 41c — where 41c is 41a and 41b played simultaneously on two player pianos. It is music that rejects Romanticism but paradoxically seems all the more passionate because of that.

The compositional process was extremely laborious, and much thought went into the structure of each Study before the actual work of punching the blank paper roll began, where each of the many thousands of holes had to be done by hand, one at a time. Nancarrow estimated than ten hours' work went into eight seconds of actual music. One result was that Nancarrow's left forearm — his left arm operated the lever on the punching machine — resembled Popeye's; another is that the Studies are masterpieces of concentrated composition. Using this obsolete technology, Nancarrow transcended his medium and wrote some of the most original and dazzling music of the century.

In 1947 Nancarrow married the artist Annette Margolis, with whom he had a son (his first wife had divorced him when he was reported missing in action in Spain). Through Margolis, Nancarrow came to know many of the artists working in Mexico, including Diego Rivera and his wife, Freda Kahlo, but it was a stormy marriage which ended in 1951. Around 1960-61 Nancarrow went into a depression and for the next 19 years lived with his pianos and his Scotch bottle. These "missing years" from 1951 to 1970 produced many of his most intense and creative works.

Thinking that no one would take him seriously until they could see his music in conventional notation, Nancarrow decided to make scores of some of the Studies. At around this time he became a little better known when Merce Cunningham choreographed some of the earlier Studies for his New York ballet company and the scores began to be published in the American *Soundings* journal run by Peter Garland.

Nancarrow continued to send tapes of the Studies to Elliott Carter, who did his best to help, but the music made little or no impression on the likes of Pierre Boulez and the European avant garde of the time.

The breakthrough came in the late Seventies, when a series of LPs of the Studies, was released and the composer György Ligeti bought one in a Paris record shop. Ligeti was so keen to share his discovery of this extraordinary music that he used his enormous influence to gain Nancarrow a substantial grant from the McArthur Foundation and enthusiastically promoted Nancarrow throughout the European contemporary music festival circuit. The floodgates of world recognition were finally opened.

From then on, Nancarrow's life changed to that of practically any successful late 20th-century composer: tours, interviews, documentaries, festivals and commissions followed, and he began to write for human beings for the first time since the Forties. The Third String Quartet and the three Canons are arguably less successful than the Studies, whose superhuman qualities seem to be the essence of Nancarrow.

Inevitably, the question of repatriating to the US came up, but Nancarrow refused to tolerate the public recantation of his politics which would have been necessary. So he continued to live in a quiet suburb of Mexico City until his death.

He is survived by his third wife, the Japanese anthropologist Yoko Seguira, whom he married in 1970; by their son; and by the son of his second marriage.

HENDRIK VAN DEN BERGH

Lieutenant-General Hendrik van den Bergh, former head of the South African Bureau of State Security (Boss) died on August 16, aged 82. He was born on November 27, 1914.

WHEN South Africa's apartheid Government at the peak of its power in 1969 brushed aside all opposition and established the Bureau of State Security, the nation at first saw it as something of a joke. Its purpose, said the Government, was to merge civil and military security organisations to deal with the increasing terrorist threat against the country.

But soon, the sweeping powers awarded to it, with the threat of a seven-year prison sentence against anyone who communicated information about the new bureau prejudicial to the State or its security, dismayed the press, the tiny parliamentary Opposition, several Bar Councils and academics.

And the joking stopped as it was quickly perceived what a sinister organisation John Vorster, then prime minister, had set up. It was headed by one of his closest confidants, Lieutenant-General Hendrik van den Bergh, head of the security police and also his personal security adviser.

Van den Bergh, 6ft 5in tall, and known to his associates as "Lang [tall] Hendrik", was a gaunt-looking man, as sinister in aspect as the organisation he headed. Several years earlier his investigations into anti-apartheid activities had led to the Rivonia trial at which Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage and plotting to overthrown the Government.

Hendrik van den Bergh was born on a farm near Vredefort in the Orange Free State and joined the police force straight from school. He and John Vorster were both interned during the Second World War as members of the Ossewa Brandwag, a fanatical neo-Nazi Afrikaner organisation that carried out a violent campaign against South Africa's support for the Allied cause.

After the war van den Bergh rejoined the police. Under his direction in the early 1970s Boss agents were particularly active in Britain, where it was claimed that they collaborated with a dissident faction in the British secret service with the aim of discrediting the Labour and Liberal parties on account of their opposition to any links with the apartheid regime.

BOSS successfully penetrated exiled South African political organisations, notably the African National Congress, and kept close watch on individuals engaged in anti-South African activities.

But the task of Boss was also to curb the influence of the South African military which Vorster, a former Minster of

Police, distrusted. By the time he fell from power in disgrace in 1979, after the disclosure that taxpayers' money had been secretly used for clandestine propaganda projects, Boss had increasingly become a political network, spying on anybody considered to be an enemy.

Vorster was replaced by P. W. Botha, who surrounded himself with military generals. In the National Security Council intense rivalry developed between military intelligence and Boss which was renamed the National Intelligence Service. Soon afterwards, van den Bergh went bitterly into retirement and farming. He re-emerged briefly during South Africa's last whites-only general election in 1987, when he stood unsuccessfully as a candidate for the right-wing Conservative Party formed by breakaway Nationalists.

Hendrik van den Bergh's first wife, a Welsh woman, died during his internment. He leaves five children by his second wife, Kotie, who died in March.

NUSRAT FATEH ALI KHAN

Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, singer, died on August 16 aged 48. He was born on October 13, 1948.

THE best-loved and most expressive Asian singer of his generation, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan was a superstar in his native Pakistan and did more than any other individual to promote and popularise the Islamic devotional music known as *qawwali* across the Western world.

He was a larger-than-life figure known at home as Shahen-Shah, "the brightest star", and elsewhere drawing comparison with Luciano Pavarotti, with whom he had in common not only a considerable girth but also an emotional style of delivery and the on-stage habit of constantly mopping his brow with a handkerchief.

In recent years he toured Europe and North America extensively, performing cross-legged and barefoot as he took Asian music to new audiences, becoming one of the biggest names in the burgeoning market for "world music". His new-found popularity culminated in an unlikely dance hit when one of his compositions was remixed by the group Massive Attack. The purists were appalled, but the singer was always ready to experiment, particularly if it expanded the fan-base of his music.

He was born in Faisalabad a year after the birth of the

Pakistani state; his family claimed a lineage of six centuries as classical singers and his father, Ustad Fateh Ali Khan, was a famous musician in the *qawwali* style. Two uncles, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan and Ustad Mubarik Ali Khan, were also professional singers, but Nusrat was discouraged from following in the family tradition by his father, whose preference was that his son should become a doctor.

Yet it was never likely that he would be anything other than a musician, and he told stories of secretly eavesdropping on the music lessons his father gave to others. His first public performance was at his father's *chilla* (funeral ceremony) in 1964 and the following year he joined Mubarik's group, performing with them until his uncle's death in 1971.

By then Nusrat was ready to form his own group and, although heavily influenced by his father and uncles, he began to develop his own passionate style with a slightly faster tempo than traditional *qawwali*, which seemed to suit a younger audience.

His material drew upon several hundred years of Islamic poetry, both devotional and romantic, and his style was heavily improvised, taking a phrase here or a word there and repeating it in often complex rhythmic patterns, producing an ecstatic, trance-like effect. It was this that first attracted listeners in the West who had little idea of the meaning of the words. He always insisted that his music was not exclusively for Muslims but spoke in a universal language.

He released more than 100 cassettes on the Pakistani market but his real breakthrough in the West came when he signed to Peter Gabriel's Real World label and made his first UK performance at the 1985 Womad festival. His voice was used in Gabriel's soundtrack for Martin Scorsese's film *The Last Temptation Of Christ* (1988) and he made a string of albums for Gabriel's label, including *Shahen-Shah* (1989), *Shahbaaz* (1991) and *The Last Prophet* (1994).

He never lost the strong devotional quality of his music (although fundamentalist critics back home often claimed that he had) but Nusrat became increasingly attracted by East-West fusion, developing a fascination with electronic dance music. In 1990 he began a productive collaboration with the American avant-garde composer Michael Brook, producing *Musti Musti*, an album which fused traditional Islamic vocals with contemporary Western sounds. It was the title track of this album which was remixed by the Bristol-based Massive Attack.

A second album with Brook, *Night Song*, followed in 1996 and his voice was much in demand with film-makers, being used in Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* (1994) and *Dead Man Walking* (1995), which featured Nusrat dueting with Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam. He also composed the score for *Bandit Queen* (1995). At the time of his death a compilation was in preparation of some of his best work remixed by other Western pop acts such as Fun-da-mental and Blackstar Liner. The release will go ahead in October as a tribute album.

Nusrat had suffered from ill-health for some time and had been warned by doctors to lose weight as his kidneys were about to fail. He died in London but his body has been returned to Faisalabad. He is survived by a wife and one daughter and a nephew, Rahat, who he always hoped would carry on the family singing tradition.

ST JAMES'S THEATRE

"OLD MUSIC" By Keith Winter

Geraldine ..... Greer Garson
Philip ..... Bryan Coleman
Judith ..... Celia Johnson
Master Nicholas Decker ..... Robin Maule
Brian Decker ..... Geoffrey Kiln
Mrs. Decker ..... Marjorie Fielding
Grace, a maid ..... Margaret Hood
Tony Yale ..... Hugh Williams
Edward Tresham ..... Gyles Isham
Mabel, a maid ..... Margery Caldicott
First Footman ..... Leonard Sachs
Second Footman ..... Peter Blackmore

There is at the outset a fear — suggested perhaps by a sentimental title — that this will be no more than a thin romantical tale to be saved, if saved at all, by Mr. Rex Whistler's designs and by the delightful dresses and uniforms that Mr. G.K. Benda has summoned up from the period of the Crimea; but Mr. Winter's play turns out to be more than this. Superficially it is a romantic period piece, telling how Judith, a governess and a poor relation, married Tony Yale and grew to love him, and how Geraldine, a gold-digger of the fifties and in other respects a greedy little animal, having married Lord Tresham because he was Lord Tresham, became Tony's mistress and shot him when he preferred the love of his own wife. At which any one who pleases may shrug his shoulder, saying that such a story is commercial and "escapist" because it happens not to be a totalitarian discourse. But it happens also to be a story extremely well told, with studies of men and women that are neither commonplace nor superficial.

Mr. Winter's method is an interesting one. He tells at first very little of his characters and leaves his audience to grow in understanding of them as time passes. Judith is seen before her marriage to be gentle and gay — no more. When her marriage is unhappy and Tony turns again to women he does not love, Mr. Winter is honest enough to admit that the fault is, in part his heroine's, and Miss Celia Johnson implies with rare subtlety and discretion the nature of that fault. In this as in other plays of his Mr. Winter displays an odd belief in physical violence as a stage device. In fact, the shooting at the end and Tony's early impulse to strangle his wife are the weakest passages in the narrative, but they are redeemed by the dramatist's power to convey in silences, as well as in speech and action, the special stress of this marriage and of Tony's relationship with Geraldine.

Miss Garson, without for an instant excluding Geraldine, exhibits her not as a villainess but as one of those comprehensible beings who are made pitiable by a kind of arrogant stupidity and by the violence of their appetites. Miss Johnson, in a performance remarkable for its steady lucidity and its finesse in detail, discovers in Judith an increasing wisdom and tolerance, making us aware of each step in her mind's development. And Mr. Hugh Williams, allowing Tony to appear at first as only a dashing soldier with a pleasing wit, gradually reveals his past, his divided loyalties and, finally, his judgment of himself. The work of these three is seen in the midst of a general movement of the stage, controlled by Miss Margaret Webster, that never fails in vitality or in balance.

ON THIS DAY

August 19, 1939

Not, as its title might suggest, a rather conventional romantic piece, but stronger meat, well acted by a powerful cast, bringing together Greer Garson, Celia Johnson and Hugh Williams.

Choose your fantasy team

HOW TO PLAY

- You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
- You must pick 1 GOALKEEPER, 2 FULL BACKS, 2 CENTRAL DEFENDERS, 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS, 2 STRIKERS, 1 MANAGER.
- You must not exceed your budget of £35 million. You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club. If after a real-life transfer, you find you have three players from one club in your team, you must sell one of them. No player may be picked twice.
- Players and the manager must be chosen from *Interactive Team Football* category lists, which include code numbers and values.
- Your players and manager will accumulate points in all 1997-98 matches in the *FA Carling Premiership*, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from Saturday August 9 onwards.
- The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like whenever you like. Readers entering a mini-league should tick the box on the application form. There is no additional charge.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

POINTS AWARDED

GOALKEEPER
- Keeps clean sheet (per half)** ..... +3 points
- Scores goal ..... +20 points
- Saves penalty ..... +1 point

FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER
- Keeps clean sheet* ..... +3 points
- Scores goal ..... +4 points

MIDFIELD PLAYER
- Keeps clean sheet* ..... +1 point
- Scores goal ..... +3 points

STRIKER
- Scores goal ..... +2 points

ALL PLAYERS
- On winning side ..... +1 point
- Appearance† ..... +1 point
- Scores hat-trick ..... +10 bonus points

MANAGER
- Wins ..... +3 points
- Draws ..... +1 point

** Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points
* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match † Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

POINTS DEDUCTED

GOALKEEPER
- Concedes goal ..... -2 points

FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER
- Concedes goal ..... -1 point

ALL PLAYERS
- Sent off ..... -3 points
- Booked ..... -1 point
- Concedes penalty ..... -1 point
- Misses penalty ..... -1 point
- Scores own goal ..... -1 point

MANAGER
- Team loses ..... -1 point

TRANSFERS

Each team entered by August 9 will be allocated 6[illegible] transfers. [illegible] the transfer allocation will be decreased by 3 transfers each [illegible] when all teams registered on that day will be allocated an extra 20 [illegible] registered after this date will be allocated 20 transfers for the season [illegible] to transfer will appear in *The Times* regularly during the season.

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

- **FOR POST AND FAX** See the entry form be[illegible]
- **BY TELEPHONE: 0891 405 011 (UK)**
  +44 990 100 308 (Republic of Ireland)

Select your team and follow the simple step-by-step instructions. Tap in the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and manager. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). Finally you will be [illegible] personal *Identification number (PIN)*. Calls cost 50[illegible] The call lasts about eight minutes.

- **BY the Internet**
  ITF is available on *The Times* website (www.[illegible]). The Internet version enables you to enter the game and play [illegible], giving you access to league tables, fixture lists, player records and your team [illegible].
- **BY LineOne**
  You can enter ITF free on LineOne. This includes all transfers and checking throughout the season. For your software which includes one month's free membership of LineOne plus ten hours' access to LineOne and the Internet call 0800 111 210. For more information visit the LineOne website at www.LineOne.net.
- **BY Sky Sports Interactive**
  Play ITF with Sky Sports Interactive on 0891 770 700 (calls charged at 50p per minute). Details on Sky Text page 118.

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

QUERY NUMBER: 01582 702720

- **BY POST**
  Complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form.
- **BY FAX**
  Complete the entry form and fax it to 0660 600 563 [illegible] +44 171 649 1726. Enter your credit card details on the fax section of the form. [illegible] deducted from your account.

Entries received [illegible] the season [illegible] the season [illegible] the competition [illegible]

TEAM NAME [ ] (Up to 16 characters)

Goalkeeper [ ]
Full back [ ]
Full back [ ]
Central defender [ ]
Central defender [ ]
Midfielder [ ]
Midfielder [ ]
Midfielder [ ]
Midfielder [ ]
Striker [ ]
Striker [ ]
Manager [ ]

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

First Name .....
Surname .....
Address .....
Postcode ..... Daytime Tel .....
Cheque / PO No. .....

This year ITF will incorporate separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.
☐ ITF League ☐ Women's League ☐ Student League ☐ Youth League (Under 18)

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX)
1. 18-24 ☐ 2. 25-34 ☐ 3. 35-44 ☐
4. 45-54 ☐ 5. 55-64 ☐ 6. 65+ ☐

How often do you read *The Times*?
Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐

How often do you read *The Sunday Times*?
Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐

Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

FOR FAX ENTRY. FILL IN CREDIT CARD DETAILS BELOW

Fax your entry to: UK 0660 600 563
Outside UK +44 171 649 1726

Credit Card Number [ ] Expiry date [ ] / [ ]

Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card .....
(Supply address of registered cardholder if different from above)

Signature ..... Name .....
Address .....
Postcode ..... Daytime Tel .....

*Calls cost 50p per minute

and be £50,000 champions

The new season is upon us — and so is your chance to play Interactive Team Football (ITF) in the hope of winning £50,000. Rarely has a season promised so much, with an array of dazzling talent from all around the world performing on the British stage, and the lure of the most glittering prize of all — the World Cup — at the end of it.

To match the excitement, ITF returns with a bigger and better game. *The Times*, in association with LineOne and Sky Sports Interactive, is offering you the chance to show your football knowledge by selecting a team from the best players in Britain — those in the FA Carling Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League. That expertise will be rewarded with **a £50,000 prize for the winning team selector plus £10,000 for the second prize and £5,000 for the team coming third. Then a further £1,000 goes to the selector of the best team of the month (plus a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and Premiership tickets).**

Then there is the new **FA Cup prize. Every team entered** into the ITF league will automatically be entered into the FA Cup league. Points scored by your players in FA Cup matches will be entered both in the main ITF league and in the special FA Cup league. **The winner of the FA Cup league will be awarded £10,000.**

That is not all. New this year are three special mini-leagues running concurrently with the ITF league: a Women's League, the Mitre Students League and the Dairy Crest Youth League for under-18s. The winning team in each category will win **a trip for two to the World Cup in France next year. Monthly prizes of Premier League tickets, Mitre footballs signed by Stuart Pearce and Mitre sports bags will also be awarded in each league for the manager of the month.**

In the *Times* ITF league, you are also pitting your selectorial skills against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Assocation, Premiership players have been encouraged to enter sides of their own.

SEVEN GOOD REASONS TO PLAY ITF

- More prize money — £100,000 worth of prizes to be won
- New FA Cup league with a prize fund of £10,000 for the winner, with automatic inclusion and no extra work or cost
- New mini-leagues for women, students and young entrants with seperate monthly prizes and overall prizes of trips to the World Cup for each league winner
- 60 transfers with more flexibility for more control over your team
- Special hat-trick bonus introduced
- Revaluation of players: the value of players will go up and down through the season so, with careful selection, you can juggle your funds to buy more top names
- Easy to enter: six different ways (post, fax, telephone, Skytext, Internet and LineOne)

ITF CHECKLINE

You can check your position in ITF by calling 0891 884643 (outside UK 44 990 200 532).

TRANSFER STRATEGY

IN

30504	Stephane Henchoz	Blackburn	£2.00m
20203	Emmanuel Petit	Arsenal	£2.50m

MOVED

30501	Henning Berg (from Blackburn Rovers)	Manchester Utd	£3.00m
42005	John Barnes (from Liverpool)	Newcastle Utd	£2.50m

Dublin, left, and Schmeichel are early ITF leaders

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

You may transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

The line is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

You may make up to four transfers per telephone call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

Transfers made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

Calls cost 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 625. Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Rush and Barnes, part of Kenny Dalglish's youth development policy at Newcastle

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	0	0
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+8	+10
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	0
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	+8	+8
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	0
10601	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+8
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	0	-5
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-5
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	+2	+5
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	0	+2
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	3.00	+2	+2
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	+3	+3
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	-3
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	1.50	+3	+3
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.00	0	0
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	0
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	+3	+5
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	2.00	+3	+11
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-3	-1
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+8	+16
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12301	S Given	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+3
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	0
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-5	-8
12701	M Taylor	Southampton	1.50	0	0
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	+8	+8
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	-3	-2
12901	L Mikloska	West Ham United	2.00	+3	+6
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+2

DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	0
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	+5	+5
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	0
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	-3	-3
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	-3	-3
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	-3	-3
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	+5	+4
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	0
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+5	+10
20503	P Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+4	+9
20601	N Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+5
20602	R Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+5
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	-1	-1
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50	0	0
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	-1	-1
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	0	-2
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	0	-2
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	-1	-2
20902	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	+1
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	+1
21003	K Muscat	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	+1
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	0
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	0
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	0	0
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	0
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	-1
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50	0	0
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	0
21801	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50	0	0
21802	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+1
21901	M Whitlow	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	1.50	+1	+6
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	4.00	0	0
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	0	0
22101	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	+4	+9
22102	G Neville	Manchester United	3.50	0	0
22103	P Neville	Manchester United	3.50	+4	+9
22301	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+1
22302	W Barton	Newcastle United	2.00	0	0
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+1
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+1
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	0	0
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00	0	0
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-4
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-2	-3
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.00	0	0
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	0	0
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	0
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	-1	-4
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.00	0	0
22902	A Impey	West Ham United	1.50	0	0
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00	-5	-5
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	+5	+4
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	-3	-3
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.50	-2	-2
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	+5	+4
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	+5	+4
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	+5	+5
30501	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+2	+2
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+5	+7
30601	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+5
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	0	+5
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	0	0
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0	0
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	-3	-3
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	0
30601	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	0	-3
30602	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	0
30603	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	-2
30604	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-2
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-3
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	+1
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	-1	-1
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	0	0
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50	0	0
31201	S Pressley	Dundee United	3.00	0	0
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	+1	+1
31401	S Bilic	Everton	3.00	0	-2
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0	-1
31403	D Unsworth	Everton	2.00	0	0
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00	+1	+1
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	1.50	-1	-1
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+1
31802	G Halle	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+1
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0	0
31804	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	+5	+10
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+6
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	+1	+6
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	-1	-1
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	-1	-1
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
32101	D May	Manchester United	3.50	0	0
32102	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	+5	+10
32201	M Van Der Gaag	Motherwell	1.50	0	0
32301	P Albert	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+1
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
32303	S Howey	Newcastle United	2.00	0	0
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+1
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-3
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-4
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	0
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0	0
32703	U Van Gobbel	Southampton	1.00	0	0
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	+5	+5
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	-1	-2
32802	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-1
32803	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	-1	-4
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50	+1	+2
32902	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00	0	0
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50	+1	+2
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	0
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	0

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	3.00	+1	+1
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	+1	+1
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	+2	+3
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	+3	+3
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.50	+1	+1
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50	+3	+4
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50	+1	+1
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+1	+2
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+1
40303	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+1	+2
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00	+6	+10
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00	0	+1
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	+2	+2
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	+3	+4
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+3	+6
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+5
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+5
40601	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	0	+2
40602	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+3
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+2
40604	M Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	0
40605	J Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+3
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	+4	+4
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	0
40703	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	0	0
42503	R Bitnker	Celtic	1.50	0	0
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	+1	+1
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	0	0
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	+1
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	2.00	0	+1
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	+1	+3
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+3
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+3
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	+1	+2
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	+1	+3
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	2.50	+1	+1
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0	0
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	2.50	0	+1
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	0
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	0	+1
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0	+1
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	+1
41201	R Winters	Dundee United	3.50	+4	+4
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	2.00	+1	+1
41302	D Fleming	Dunfermline	1.50	+1	+1
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	0	+1
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	+1
41501	N McCann	Hearts	2.50	+2	+2
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	0
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0	0
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds United	3.50	+1	+2
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+2
41802	A Haaland	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+1
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds United	2.50	0	0
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	0
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+4
41903	M.Izzet	Leicester City	2.00	+2	+5
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	+1	+2
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	4.00	0	0
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	+1	+2
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
42005	J Barnes	Liverpool	2.50	0	0
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	5.00	+4	+5
42101	D Beckham	Manchester United	8.00	+4	+5
42102	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00	+3	+8
42103	R Keane	Manchester United	5.00	+2	+5
42104	N Butt	Manchester United	4.00	+3	+9
42105	A Cole	Manchester United	5.00	0	0
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00	0	0
42301	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.00	0	+2
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.50	0	0
42303	D Batty	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+1
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	8.00	0	0
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00	0	0
42403	J Thern	Rangers	4.00	0	0
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	0	0
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+4
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+1
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	+3	+3
42701	J Magilton	Southampton	1.50	+1	+2
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75	+1	+2
42703	N Maddison	Southampton	0.75	+1	+2
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75	+3	+3
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	0
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	0
42803	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
42804	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+2
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+1	+2
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham United	2.50	+5	+7
42902	S Lomas	West Ham United	2.50	+1	+3
42903	J Moncur	West Ham United	2.00	+2	+3
42904	M Hughes	West Ham United	1.50	+1	+3
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.50	0	+1
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	0	+1
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	0	-1
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	0	0
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	5.00	0	0
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	+8	+9
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	+2	+3
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	+1	+2
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	7.00	+1	+2
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00	+1	+2
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50	0	0
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50	+2	+3
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00	0	0
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+4	+8
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+1
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+17	+19
50601	J McGinlay	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	0	+2
50602	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+4
50701	J Cadete	Celtic	8.00	0	0
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00	+1	+1
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	3.50	0	0
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00	0	+1
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00	0	0
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	+1	+19
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	3.00	+1	+2
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.50	0	0
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	2.50	0	+1
51002	D Freedman	Crystal Palace	2.50	0	0
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00	+1	+4
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00	0	0
51102	A Ward	Derby County	2.00	0	+1
51103	F Baiano	Derby County	2.00	0	0
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00	+1	+1
51202	K Olafsson	Dundee United	2.50	0	0
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00	0	0
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	5.00	0	+3
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00	0	0
51403	G Stuart	Everton	2.50	0	-1
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	+4	+4
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00	0	0
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50	0	0
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+5
51803	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	+6	+7
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	4.50	0	+1
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50	+1	+3
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.00	+2	+6
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.50	0	0
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50	+1	+1
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester United	7.50	0	0
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester United	7.00	+2	+3
52103	P Scholes	Manchester United	6.00	+2	+3
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00	+1	+1
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00	0	0
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.0	0	0
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	3.50	0	+6
52401	M Negri	Rangers	3.50	0	0
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50	0	0
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00	0	0
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	+1	+1
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wednesday	6.50	0	0
52502	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+1	+1
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	0	0
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00	+1	+2
52703	M Evans	Southampton	2.00	0	+1
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50	+2	+2
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00	+4	+4
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+1
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham Hotspur	7.50	+3	+4
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	0
52901	J Hartson	West Ham United	3.00	+4	+8
52902	P Kitson	West Ham United	3.00	+2	+4
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	1.50	+1	+1
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00	0	+3
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00	0	+1
53003	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	3.00	0	+1

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
60101	R Aitken	Aberdeen	2.50	-1	-1
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	4.50	+3	+4
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	3.50	-1	-2
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50	+3	+2
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+3	+6
60601	C Todd	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+3
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00	-1	-1
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	-1
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00	-1	+2
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75	-1	+2
61101	J Smith	Derby County	1.00	0	-1
61201	T McLean	Dundee United	3.00	+1	+1
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00	+3	+3
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00	0	-1
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	1.50	+3	+3
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	1.00	+1	+1
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	0
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	2.00	+3	+4
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	1.50	+3	+6
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	-1	0
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester United	5.00	+3	+6
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00	-1	-1
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+3
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	0	0
62501	D Pleat	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-2
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.75	-1	-2
62601	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50	+3	+3
62801	G Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-2
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	1.50	+3	+6
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00	0	+1

NEWS

US backs ban on landmines

■ President Clinton announced last night that America would support an international ban on landmines by the end of the year, providing an unexpected boost for the campaign supported by Diana, Princess of Wales.

The apparent reversal of policy was welcomed by the Government, which decided soon after taking office to suspend operational use of anti-personnel landmines and to destroy all stocks by 2005 ..... Page 1

Major bowls Labour a quick one

■ John Major launched his first public attack on the Labour Government when he rose in defence of cricket. The former Prime Minister accused ministers of "sheer political spite" in planning to exclude team games from the British Academy of Sport and urged them to reverse the policy ..... Page 1

Prescott's claws

John Prescott poked fun at Peter Mandelson's ambitions to win a seat on Labour's National Executive Committee by naming an aggressive crab after his colleague ..... Pages 1, 17

'Judas' hanged

A British actor accidentally hanged himself while playing Judas's suicide scene in an amateur production of *Jesus Christ, Superstar* in a resort hotel in northern Greece ..... Page 1

Alcopop accusation

Brewers were accused of introducing alcopops as a "scandalous" ploy to revive drink sales threatened by young people's taste for Ecstasy and soft drinks at raves ..... Page 2

Pallet man returns

Lawrence Tervit, who attempted to cross the Channel on a pallet after a failed job hunt in Europe, said "desperate times call for desperate measures" ..... Page 3

Fumes killed student

A landlord and a gas fitter blamed for the death of a Durham University student killed by fumes from a faulty gas boiler escaped with fines ..... Page 4

King of Chelsea

The remains of an Anglo-Saxon palace, which could be that of the powerful Mercian ruler Offa, have been found on the Thames foreshore at Chelsea ..... Page 5

Brainpower training

Competitors at the Mind Sports Olympiad use rigorous physical training methods, controlled diets and special psychological techniques to exercise their powerful minds ..... Page 6

Counselling criticised

Counselling, the 1990s remedy for life's problems, is ineffective when used on its own to help those at risk of depression or other mental illness, a study from York University concludes Page 7

Florida robbery

A father and son from Newcastle upon Tyne were tied up in their hotel room and robbed by two gunmen in the normally peaceful Florida holiday resort of St Petersburg ..... Page 8

I'm no monster

I am not a bloodthirsty monster, Egon Krenz, the former East German Communist Party leader accused of manslaughter told a court ..... Page 9

Sniper victim

The deputy governor of St Petersburg was assassinated by a rooftop sniper as he was being driven down Nevsky Prospekt, the city's main thoroughfare ..... Page 10

Aboriginal activist

Burnum Burnum, the activist who planted an Aboriginal flag on the white cliffs of Dover to claim Britain for his people, has died in Australia ..... Page 11

A beer in Blair's château hideaway

■ Tony Blair invited *The Times* into his holiday home in St Martin D'Oydes, south of Toulouse, for a cold beer and a chat about Franco-British relations. Looking tanned and hot after two hours of tennis on the village court he said he was enjoying his holiday and looking forward to meeting Lionel Jospin, his French counterpart, later in the week ..... Page 1

MYCHELE DANIAU

Raja and Raya, rare white Bengal tiger cubs born one week ago, in a zoo at Hermival-les-Vaux in Normandy yesterday

BUSINESS

Economy: The consumer spending boom is coming to the rescue of government finances, enabling the Exchequer to repay more debt than expected in July ..... Page 23

Options: Three former directors of the engineering firm APV who were awarded share options worth £568,000 days before agreeing a Siebe takeover have left ..... Page 23

Mining: John Battle, the industry minister, demanded an explanation from RJB Mining for its decision to close Britain's newest mine ..... Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 30.8 points to close at 4835.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 102.1 to 102.3 after a rise from $1.6093 to $1.6106 and from DM2.9273 to DM2.9350 ..... Page 26

SPORT

Golf: Tom Kite, the US Ryder Cup captain, went for experience in major competitions when he selected Fred Couples and Lee Janzen to complete his team against Europe ..... Page 44

Rugby union: Ian McGeechan, tipped as a possible successor to Jack Rowell as England coach, has withdrawn from consideration for the post ..... Page 44

Cricket: Martyn Ball and Richard Davis shared nine wickets as Gloucestershire went top of the county championship with a 166-run win over Sussex ..... Page 41

Football: Peter Beardsley, the former England international, has joined Bolton Wanderers from Newcastle for £450,000 after his sale was at first blocked ..... Page 44

ARTS

Tuscan tourist: Phillip King's large, stunning sculptures are being shown on the hills overlooking Florence, a fit setting for their audacity and brio ..... Page 14

Screen feast: The sponsors may have changed but the diet at the Edinburgh Film Festival remains the same: new British films, weird documentaries and plenty of controversy ..... Page 15

Fringe imports: Benedict Nightingale rounds up theatre on the Edinburgh Fringe, from a hellish American taxi ride to an engrossing look at false memory .. Page 15

Rock on: Billed as "songs from Oasis back to Elvis", Saturday's *Songs and Visions* spectacular at Wembley was a patchy exercise in cosy pop nostalgia ..... Page 15

FEATURES

Lost boy: Robert Miles is eight, but possesses the social skills of a child half his age. His parents are convinced that a vaccine is directly responsible for damaging him. Anjana Ahuja reports ..... Page 12

MTV generation: Jessica, in tight leopardskin, has more of a way with words. "She's a peach," she says of her friend. "And I'm a mango." Giles Whittell hangs out with the extras making summer programmes for the pop video network MTV ..... Page 13

Right to know: There are now 110,000 convicted child molesters in England and Wales. The new Sex Offenders Act, which comes into force on September 1, will require such offenders to register any change of address with police. Should that information be passed on to the public? ..... Page 31

Errant e-mail: An action arising out of defamation by e-mail was settled when Norwich Union agreed to pay £450,00 in damages and costs to a rival health insurer, Western Provident Association ..... Page 32

Millionaire's eye: Trevor Proudfoot cannot emphasise it enough. He doesn't come cheap. It is a simple business philosophy that is standing him in good stead as head of the Cliveden Conservation Workshop on the edge of the Cliveden estate in Taplow, Berkshire ..... Page 34

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Cadfael investigates the murder of a wine merchant in 12th-century Shrewsbury (ITV, 8.30pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph on Midlands masochism ..... Pages 42, 43

OPINION

Divided they stand

The decision to back Srpska's President, Biljana Plavsic, has not come easily to America and its allies. Among Serbs, it is hard to distinguish white hats from black. But she offers the best hope that something akin to the rule of law can displace the bandits led by Radovan Karadzic ..... Page 17

Crashes and bangs

Shareholders in London and New York who want to catch the peak of the boom might be wise to sell their equities now and put their money on deposit for a while ..... Page 17

Labour's rock pool

John Prescott is the Dr Doolittle of this Government. He can talk to the animals. Yesterday, it was a crab ..... Page 17

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LIBBY PURVES

The awful fact is that if two bright people marry and procreate, something has to give way — probably somebody's dream. People should face this when they marry, and remember it again before they conceive children ..... Page 16

GRAHAM MATHER

After John Major's defeat, many Tories rushed to assure the public that it would be a long time before they advanced any new policies — or indeed any policies at all. But it cannot be wise for them to become a policy-less party ..... Page 16

DANIEL JOHNSON

Helmut Kohl's message was simple: the euro will be a strong, stable currency and to give stability anything other than top priority "is a price I will not pay". Note the assumption that the stability of the new European currency is subject to the fiat of one country's leader ..... Page 16

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Conlon Nancarrow, composer; **Hendrik van den Bergh**, former head of BOSS; **Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan**, singer ..... Page 19

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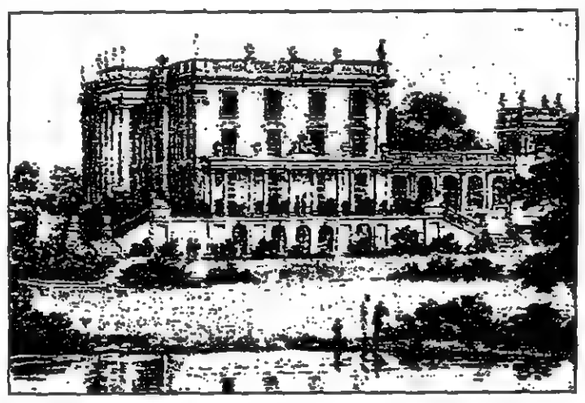


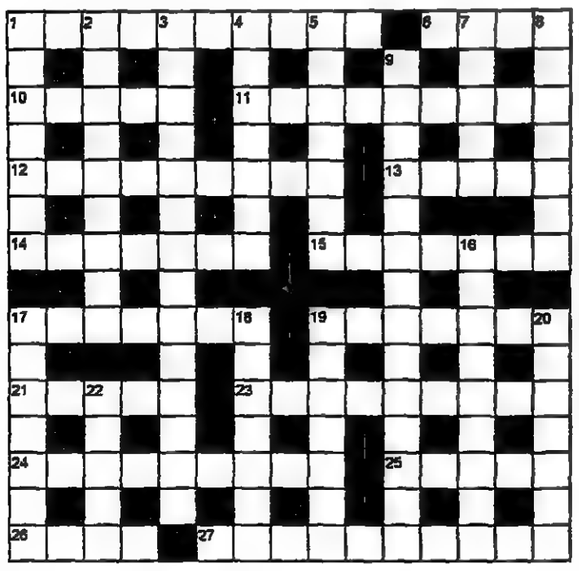
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **HOMES**
Living with history — period country house apartments take off

■ **INTERFACE**
The IT passage to India means Britain can take advantage of a whole sub-continent of technical expertise

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,562



ACROSS

1 Signing-on points (6,4).
6 Marks dropped in proper examination (4).
10 For example, count old money (5).
11 Apprehensive of being shot? (6-3).
12 Lap-dog? (9).
13 Advantage of bringing back a savings scheme (5).
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15 Battle company prompt, coming about midday (7).
17 Ask me out to a party, as manager copes (5,2).
19 Touching sympathy (7).
21 Police officer's half-hearted meal (5).
23 Member is not in time to see the bill through (9).
24 A cut restricts meagre grant (9).
25 A girl backing another (5).
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1 Accomplished young woman in Irish county set (7).
2 Discussions at board level (5,4).
3 Exotic helps where insects must be consumed? (8,6).
4 Gloss over rising barrister breaking a rule improperly (7).
5 Wandering lunatic breaking into coin collection (7).
7 In more ways than one, they can produce fine sprays (5).
8 Still getting in after hours, showing childish habits (7).
9 Silver went after gold here (8,6).
16 I'm in a race for life (9).
17 Cosmetic surgery's result concealed by mother (7).
18 Rosalind's lover is in Florida (7).
19 Natural cover in garden, originally (3,4).
20 It should have a safety pin in it (7).
22 President leading a lively dance (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,561

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED (1967). Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other formats by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171 782 5000 and also printed at Kitling Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HZ, telephone 0151 546 2000. This day, August 19, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.52 am — Sun sets: 8.15 pm

Moon sets: 7.06 am — Moon rises: 8.44 pm

Last quarter August 25

London 8.15 pm to 5.54 am
Bristol 8.25 pm to 6.04 am
Edinburgh 8.30 pm to 5.54 am
Manchester 8.29 pm to 5.57 am
Penzance 8.32 pm to 6.19 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** mostly warm and muggy with hazy sunshine and a slight risk of showers, mainly over high ground. Western England, Wales, Northern Ireland and western Scotland may have rain.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E & W Midlands:** very warm and humid. Wind light, SE. Max 29C (84F).

☐ **SW & Central England, Channel Isles:** dull with rain. Wind light, SE. Max 25C (77F).

☐ **E & NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** coastal mist, warm inland. Humid. Wind light, SE. Max 26C (79F).

☐ **S Wales, N Ireland:** early bright spells, becoming cloudy with rain. Wind light to moderate, SE. Max 24C (75F).

☐ **N Wales, NW & Central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** warm and humid. Showers. Wind light, SE. Max 26C (79F).

☐ **SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** some sunshine, perhaps showers. Wind SE, light. Max 23C (73F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** dull with coastal fog.

☐ **Ireland:** sunny intervals, showers, cloudier with rain in south and west. Wind moderate or fresh, SE. Max 23F (73F).

☐ **Outlook:** cloudy in the west, muggy in the east.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.2	0.01	18	64	du
Anglesey	11.7	-	22	72	s
Argyllshire	10.0	-	23	73	fg
Aviemore	5.8	0.01	21	70	b
Belfast	11.7	0.01	22	72	s
Birmingham	8.3	0.01	28	82	s
Bognor R	12.0	-	27	81	s
Bournem'th	9.7	-	23	73	s
Bristol	7.9	-	27	81	s
Buxton	6.4	0.02	25	77	s
Cardiff	8.4	-	24	75	s
Clacton	10.2	0.02	21	70	s
Cleethorpes	6.3	0.01	23	73	
Colwyn Bay	9.0	-	20	68	s
Cromer	8.4	0.01	23	73	s
Dunbar	0.2	0.07	16	61	d
Eastbourne	11.9	-	24	75	s
Edinburgh	1.8	0.03	18	64	d
Eskdalemuir	6.9	-	23	73	s
Falmouth	8.8	-	22	72	s
Felixstowe	9.0	-	23	73	s
Fishguard	6.6	0.01	21	70	s
Folkestone	11.4	-	26	79	s
Glasgow	8.4	-	23	73	s
Guernsey	7.3	-	22	72	s
Hastings	10.3	-	25	77	s
Herne Bay	9.8	-	27	81	s
Hove	9.5	-	24	75	s
Isle-of-man	13.9	-	20	68	s
Isle-of-wight	12.5	-	27	81	s
Jersey	6.2	-	25	77	b
Leeds	10.2	-	28	82	s
Lerwick	6.8	-	19	66	s
Leuchars	1.5	-	18	64	c
Lisdonvarna	10.2	-	25	77	s
London	7.0	0.09	30	86	s
Lowestoft	8.9	-	23	73	s
Manchester	8.2	-	26	79	s
Margate	9.7	-	26	79	s
Minehead	6.8	0.01	23	73	b
Morecambe	9.6	-	23	73	s
Newcastle	10.3	0.19	20	68	s
Norwich	8.6	-	27	81	s
Oxford	10.6	-	29	84	s
Penzance	X	-	22	72	s
Poole	10.5	-	27	81	s
Ross-o-wye	9.7	-	27	81	s
Salcombe	9.8	-	24	75	s
Saunton Snd	7.9	-	22	72	s
Shrewsbury	6.1	0.31	26	79	
Skegness	8.6	-	24	75	s
Southend	X	-	25	77	s
Southport	8.6	0.02	23	73	s
Stornoway	10.5	-	17	63	s
Swanage	9.2	-	24	75	s
Teignmouth	10.2	-	23	73	s
Tenby	12.5	-	22	72	s
Torquay	11.1	-	25	77	s
Wash'n mem	6.8	-	26	79	s
Weymouth	8.5	-	21	70	s

ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	28	82	s
Akrotiri	28	82	s
Alex'dria	29	84	f
Algiers	30	86	s
Amst'dm	22	73	f
Athens	32	90	s
B Aires	20	68	c
Bahrain	35	95	s
Bangkok	31	88	c
Barbados	29	84	f
Barcelona	28	82	s
Beirut	29	85	f
Belgrade	26	79	s
Berlin	25	77	s
Bermuda	29	84	s
Biarritz	25	77	f
Borde'x	27	81	f
Brussels	27	81	s
Budapest	26	79	s
Cairo	31	88	f
Cape Tn	18	64	s
Ch church	16	61	X
Chicago	23	73	f
Cologne	27	81	s
Corfu	29	84	s
C'phagn	25	77	s
Dublin	19	66	f
Dubrovnik	27	81	s
Faro	25	77	X
Florence	29	84	f
Frankfurt	28	82	f
Funchal	23	73	s
Geneva	23	73	f
Gibraltar	24	75	s
Helsinki	18	64	s
Hong K	29	84	s
Innsbruck	19	66	r
Istanbul	26	79	s
Jeddah	39	102	s
Jo'burg	21	70	s
L Angeles	23	73	s
L Palmas	25	77	s
Le Tquet	27	81	f
Lisbon	27	81	s
Locarno	22	72	f
Luxembg	27	81	f
Luxor	39	102	s
Madrid	27	81	s
Majorca	31	88	s
Malaga	27	81	s
Malta	30	86	s
Melb'rne	14	57	s
Mexico C	X		
Miami	33	91	s
Milan	24	75	c
Montreal	21	70	s
Moscow	11	52	c
Munich	22	72	r
N Delhi	33	91	s
N York	22	90	s
Nairobi	X		
Naples	30	86	f
Nice	25	77	c
Oslo	23	73	s
Paris	29	84	s
Peking	31	88	s
Perth	15	59	f
Prague	22	72	s
Reykjavik	9	48	c
Rhodes	29	84	s
Rio de J	30	86	s
Riyadh	39	102	s
Rome	30	86	s
S Fr'sco	21	70	s
S Paulo	X		
Salzburg	23	73	f
Santiago	12	54	s
Seoul	32	90	s
Sing'por	31	88	f
Sr'kholm	27	81	f
Strasb'rg	28	82	s
Sydney	25	77	s
Tangier	26	79	s
Tel Aviv	28	82	f
Tenerife	27	81	s
Tokyo	23	73	c
Toronto	19	66	f
Tunis	34	93	f
Valencia	30	86	s
Vanc'ver	23	73	s
Venice	X		
Vienna	25	77	c
Warsaw	21	70	s
Wash'ton	X		
Wel'ngton	14	57	X
Zurich	22	72	f

Temperatures at noon, local time on Sunday. X = not available

MODEL WEATHER

Changes to the chart below from noon: high S will move slowly east with pressure unchanged. Low T will run north and fill. Low U will head towards Iceland and deepen

TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	03.03	7.5	15.21	7.5
Aberdeen	02.20	4.6	14.57	4.5
Avonmouth	08.38	13.9	21.00	14.3
Belfast	-	-	12.26	3.5
Cardiff	08.24	12.8	20.46	13.2
Devonport	07.06	5.6	19.24	5.9
Dover	-	-	12.21	7.0
Dublin (N Wall)	00.27	4.4	13.03	4.2
Falmouth	06.37	5.4	18.55	5.7
Greenock	01.45	3.6	14.09	3.5
Harwich	01.00	4.3	13.19	4.2
Holyhead	11.41	5.8	23.57	6.1
Hull (Albert D)	07.27	9.0	20.02	9.0
Ilfracombe	07.19	9.8	19.41	10.0
King's Lynn	07.34	7.3	20.13	7.1
Leith	03.39	5.9	16.03	6.0
Liverpool	00.12	10.0	12.39	9.8
Lowestoft	10.34	2.7	23.18	2.8
Margate	01.08	4.9	13.21	4.9
Milford Haven	07.32	7.3	19.54	7.6
Newquay	06.23	7.3	18.46	7.6
Oban	07.09	4.0	19.29	4.4
Penzance	05.53	5.6	18.16	6.0
Portland	06.39	2.1	20.53	2.4
Portsmouth	00.10	4.8	12.41	4.9
Shoreham	00.09	6.5	12.42	6.5
Southampton	-	-	12.06	4.8
Swansea	07.43	10.1	20.03	10.3
Tees	04.48	5.7	17.21	5.7
Walton-on-N	00.51	4.4	13.09	4.4

All times BST. Heights in metres

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Northolt, West London 30C (86F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland 16C (61F); highest rainfall: Rosehearty, Grampian 0.31in; highest sunshine: Isle of Man 13.9hrs.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY AUGUST 19 1997

Stagecoach chief riding high in pay stakes

Brian Souter, a former bus driver, took home £3.55 million

By Fraser Nelson

BRIAN SOUTER, chief executive of Stagecoach, has joined the ranks of Britain's highest paid directors after taking home £3.55 million last year, including £3 million in dividends.

Ann Gloag, his sister, laid claim to be one of the best-paid women in the City after enjoying £2.72 million in salary, pension contributions and dividend payments.

In the year to April 30, when the company's profits almost trebled to £121 million, Stagecoach rewarded its directors by making them among the best paid in the country.

Brian Cox, who runs the South West Trains franchise, enjoyed a total package of £702,000 with a £10,000 bonus — even though the redundancy programme he oversaw led to the cancellation of 2,000 trains in February and March.

He pocketed £443,000 from cashing in share options before the trouble at South West Trains began.

If he remains with the company for a further four years, he will pick up a cash bonus of £500,000, provided the group maintains modest earnings growth.

Sandy Anderson, a former British Rail manager who made £33.6 million when the Porterbrook train leasing company was sold to Stagecoach, was paid £150,000 in his eight months with the group. He has since decided to leave Stagecoach, after less than a year on the board.

Mr Souter's basic remuneration was £463,000, a 50 per cent rise on the £309,000 but still fairly average given the £1.7 billion size of the company. However, his tight grip on the company's shares means he can expect to enjoy some £5.1 million in dividends this year and £6.2 million in 1998. Rather than dilute his holding, he has bought a further £1 million this year, taking his holding to 15.2 per cent.

The £2.72 million received by Ann Gloag, who chairs Stagecoach's bus operations in Kenya, did not contain any one-off bonuses.

By comparison, Carol Galley, vice-chairman of Mercury Asset Management, was the highest-paid female financier in Britain last year, picking up a £5.44 million package — but only after cashing in £2.82 million of deferred bonuses. She is expected to earn around £2.2 million this year, while Ms Gloag is on course to pick up £4.22 million in dividend payments alone.

Mr Souter, himself a former bus driver, is with his sister ranked as the 28th richest person in Britain with a joint fortune worth £500 million.

In the last ten years, he has grown the firm from a local Scottish bus operator to become the largest transport group in Britain and the only one to generate organic passenger growth.

Siebe and APV trio part company

By Fraser Nelson

THREE directors of APV who were awarded share options worth £568,000 just days before they agreed a takeover from Siebe, have left the engineering company.

The three, Neil French, John Kennerley and Howard Stanworth, have left their positions with the food industry engineer as part of a management shake-up announced to the stock market yesterday. Compensation terms were not revealed.

The three were part of a team of four directors who agreed to and recommended to shareholders a bid for the food manufacturing equipment group. Only Richard Fenny remains.

Mr Kennerley, formerly APV's finance director, left on completion of the acquisition in June. He would have left the company with £245,000 of share options, £128,000 of which were granted 19 days before the takeover was announced.

Mr Stanworth was also awarded £128,000 of free APV shares under what the company described as a "long-term incentive plan" in the days before the takeover. The holdings were approved at a shareholder meeting held after the merger was agreed.

A Siebe spokesman said the departures were part of inevitable head office integration after the takeover. He would not comment on the level of payoffs.

Budge under fire over pit closure

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE Government has ordered RJB Mining to justify the closure of the Asfordby superpit, opened just two years ago at a cost of £320 million of taxpayers' money.

Closure of the Leicestershire colliery, announced yesterday with the loss of 490 jobs, was blamed by RJB on geological conditions. This was challenged by union officials. City analysts, meanwhile, questioned RJB's long-term financial prospects, alarmed by the company's apparent inability to safeguard the future of the pit.

As RJB shares fell to their lowest point since mid-1995, John Battle, the Industry Minister, said: "I have asked the company to provide me with further details on the difficulties they face which have forced this decision."

Richard Budge, RJB chief executive, said: "We cannot sustain economic mining operations while providing a safe working environment for our workforce."

Asfordby has incurred losses of more than £36 million since it started operating in 1995 but made a small profit in the first six months of this year. It has produced 1.5 million tonnes of coal. British Coal, which began development of the mine, had hoped that it would produce 4 million tonnes a year.

In 1994 RJB paid £815 million for most of the pits in England during the privatisation of British Coal, encountering little opposition from significant natural resources companies like Hanson and RTZ. Shares of RJB peaked at 590p in 1996 before falling sharply.

Union leaders yesterday suggested Mr Budge had ordered closure of the mine to force the Government to intervene in the market for coal, which is suffering because of competition from gas and cheaper imported coal.

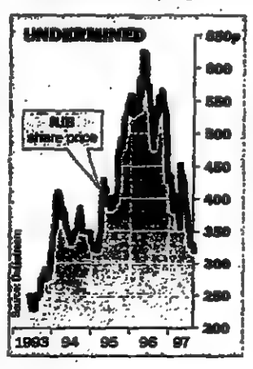
The decision to close Asfordby has also been challenged by union leaders who will today send in their own engineers to assess the geological conditions. Neil Greatrex, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, said he would ask for government support and did not rule out a management buyout of the colliery.

RJB is currently negotiating new contracts with the electricity generators, knowing it faces a tough battle to meet its customers' demands to match the cost of gas and imported coal. Failure to reach agreement is expected to hasten the closure of many other mines.

Gerry Mousley, director general of the UK Coal Producers, said he would petition the Prime Minister for more support. He said Labour had not delivered what it had promised the industry while in opposition. A spokesman for RJB said the company was also disappointed that more backing had not been forthcoming from the Government.

Earlier this month the DTI approved the building of a gas-fired generation project, quashing hopes that it might enforce a moratorium on the fuel. The coal industry has been further critical that the project would be run by BP. Lord Simon, the Competitiveness Minister, is a former chairman of BP.

More pressure for electricity generators to use cheap fuel will come from the regulator's next supply price review.



Miners bitter, page 7
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Tarnished crown, page 27

The superpit at Asfordby opened just two years ago and cost taxpayers £320 million

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4835.0	(-30.8)
Yield	n/a	
FTSE All share	2287.37	(-15.03)
Nikkei	19041.10	(-284.93)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7962.80	(-1.86)*
S&P Composite	900.40	(-0.41)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5⅝%)
Long Bond	97[illegible]*	(97[illegible])
Yield	6.53%*	(6.55%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7[illegible]%	(7[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	115[illegible]	(114[illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6090*	(1.6095)
London:		
$	1.6109	(1.6101)
DM	2.9356	(2.9275)
FFr	9.8953	(9.8648)
SFr	2.4330	(2.4164)
Yen	189.68	(188.47)
£ Index	102.3	(102.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8230*	(1.8190)
FFr	6.1438*	(6.1315)
SFr	1.5110*	(1.5035)
Yen	117.74*	(117.42)
$ Index	105.6	(105.4)

Tokyo close Yen 117.31

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov) $18.95 ($19.10)

GOLD

London close $322.95 ($324.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Cruise line in talks to buy Cunard

By George Sivell

A MIAMI-BASED cruise company has made an offer to buy Cunard, the shipping line that owns the *QE2*, but says it could not afford the high asking price.

Cruise Holdings said yesterday that it had held talks with Kvaerner, the Norwegian company that inherited the *QE2* when it took over Trafalgar House last year.

Larry Magnan, the Cruise Holdings chief executive, said: "We have had some discussion with Kvaerner about Cunard. We would be very interested in Cunard. But at this point in time they are asking too much money for it, quite frankly."

Cruise Holdings operates five mass market cruise liners and yesterday said it would buy the *Rotterdam* liner from Carnival Corp of the US, the world's largest cruise line.

Markets repeat Monday calm

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

WEEKEND fear gave way to a second Monday of relief on most financial markets. Prices stabilised and little heavy selling was seen.

Share prices drifted gently down in London in a muted aftermath to the accelerating fall that hit Wall Street on Friday. Market-makers marked down prices about 1½ per cent at the start, enough to deter sellers and attract some buyers in paltry trading.

After Wall Street opened quietly, London's FTSE 100 index ended a further 30.6 points, or 0.6 per cent, down at 4,835. But domestic investors remained sceptical. In contrast to Friday, when second-line stocks edged up, the FTSE 250 index dropped a shade more than blue chips.

In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average yo-yoed, moving up almost 30 points early on, then down 70 points. By late afternoon, the Dow had recovered to show a gain of 43.67 points to 7,738.33.

There were bigger losses in Far East markets, which had shut before Wall Street opened on Friday, and in those continental countries that shut on Friday for the Feast of the Assumption. In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 index shed 1.5 per cent. In countries whose currencies are under attack, losses were greater. Malaysia's index fell 3.3 per cent.

The most reassuring development came in the latest statement from a member of the Bundesbank Council, who claimed a rise in interest rates would be damaging.

Hans-Jürgen Krupp gave a hint that Germany's central bank was unlikely to countenance a rate rise, either by allowing a flexible repo rate today, or by shifting rates at Thursday's council meeting.

He said: "There is a good indication that a small rate hike would not have any weighty effect on exchange rates, and a larger hike, the effects of which would also be uncertain, would not be responsible given the domestic economic situation." Both the dollar and sterling edged up against the mark.

The US Federal Reserve Board is not expected to raise rates after its policy meeting, which starts today.

Market report, page 26

Consumers rescue public purse

By Graham Searjeant

THE consumer spending boom is at last coming to the rescue of government finances, enabling the Exchequer to repay much more than expected in the tax-paying month of July.

Buoyant revenue from income tax, VAT and excise duties, if continued, will ease fears of a public spending crisis later in the financial year.

The Exchequer built a surplus of £3.88 billion on the month without any privatisation proceeds, more than twice the £1.8 billion repayment in July 1996, which included £900 million asset sales.

Income tax of £8.18 billion in July was 12 per cent higher than a year ago. Corporation tax was up 14 per cent, reflecting growth in profits.

Even these gains were eclipsed by proceeds of VAT, which were 32 per cent higher at a monthly record of £5.03 billion in July as changes to the pattern of VAT payments washed out of the system. Tobacco also chipped in an extra £400 million.

At this stage, public spending also appears to be under firm control. Departmental outlays in July were posted at £21.6 billion against £21.5 billion a year ago.

July's fiscal surplus was much bigger than the City expected. The median of forecasts was for a public sector borrowing requirement of £800 million. Gilt-edged stocks gained on hopes that the Treasury will not have to raise as much new debt as anticipated. The benchmark ten-year bond gained £3/8 to £101 25/32, to yield 6.99 per cent.

In the first four months of the financial year, the net PSBR is just £4.4 billion, down from £8.1 billion in the first third of 1996-97. The June PSBR has been revised down by £200 million.

At this relatively early stage, the Government looks on schedule to meet its latest forecast of £10.9 billion for the full year. It will benefit from £2.4 billion this year from the levy on utilities, little of which will be spent in 1997-98.

Excluding privatisation proceeds, the deficit is also shrinking well. The borrowing requirement is £5.46 billion so far this year, against £10.4 billion a year ago.

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Action over carpetbagging boosts funds of NSPCC

By Caroline Merrell

CARPETBAGGING has helped to swell the coffers of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children by £150,000 through a scheme offered by the Skipton, Britain's ninth-biggest building society.

The society, which yesterday announced a 28 per cent increase in half-year profits to £18 million, obliged new customers opening accounts with less than £5,000 to donate £25 to the charity. The society's profits were boosted by its investment in its subsidiary companies, which include a third-party administration arm, and an independent financial adviser.

Net lending was about £200 million, while net retail receipts were £80 million.

Skipton said that carpetbaggers who opened accounts in order to get windfalls had severly disrupted its service to customers.

Leeds & Holbeck, now the UK's 11th biggest society, increased its interim profits 16.8 per cent to £9.8 million. The rise was on the back of an increase in mortgage lending to £202 million.

The society was also not immune to carpetbaggers — a total of 45,000 new accounts were opened in the first half of the year.

Many were opened in the expectation of the society shedding its mutual status. Retail funds totalling £57 million were shifted into the society.

Ian Ward, Leeds & Holbeck chief executive, restated the society's commitment to mutuality. He said: "We are firmly committed to remaining an independent mutual building society as we believe this is in the best long-term interests of our members."

Abbey National is raising interest rates on its Investor 90 savings account by 0.25 per cent points following the 0.25 point rise in the Bank of England's base rate on August 7.

From Wednesday, savers with Investor 90 accounts will receive 5.15 per cent compound annual interest on balances of more than £2,000, rising to 7.3 per cent on balances of more than £200,000.

Royal Bank of Scotland said that it would put up its mortgage rate 0.25 per cent from next month.

The bank confirmed that it would increase its standard variable mortgage rate to 8.45 per cent after the base rate rise.

The Royal Bank of Scotland rate is now in line with the other leading lenders such as the Halifax and the Abbey National.

Toys R Us ahead as sales rise

Toys R Us, the toys retailer, reported higher second-quarter earnings, attributed to higher sales of video games and action figures, and a lower interest charge.

The company earned $36.7 million in the three months to August 2. A year earlier Toys R Us had a loss of $7.5 million, affected by a $55 million arbitration award against the company.

Quarterly sales increased 15 per cent to $1.99 billion from $1.74 billion in 1996. In America like-for-like sales rose 4 per cent during the quarter.

Titan sale

Hampton Trust, the troubled property group, yesterday sold its 30 per cent stake in Titan, the Australian gold exploration company, for an undisclosed sum and bought a portfolio of ten companies from PDFM, the fund manager, for £15.4 million.

Yesterday Hampton reported a reduction in pre-tax losses for the year ended March 31, from £9.9 million to £6.5 million. Turnover rose 53 per cent from £20 million to £30.7 million and losses per share were reduced from 9.91p to 6.6p. No dividend will be paid.

Burmah buys

Burmah Castrol, the UK lubricants company, has acquired SMC Group for £23 million from Germany's Dynamit Nobel, expanding its position in the European coatings and resin binders market.

Burmah is also selling its Columbia Cement subsidiary in America to TACC International, an adhesives manufacturer, for £15 million. The disposal will give rise to an exceptional charge of £17 million.

Naafi contract

Naafi, which runs more than 200 armed forces clubs and pubs, has awarded a £5 million beer supply contract to Bass and Scottish Courage. The three-year contract, to be accompanied by a £15 million investment programme by Naafi in its premises, replaces a system whereby beer is supplied on a club-by-club basis.

Warning of construction industry slowdown

By Chris Ayres

THE construction industry has only two more years of growth before a decline, according to Severfield-Reeve, Britain's biggest structural steelwork company.

Severfield, which has recently won large construction contracts with companies including Hewlett Packard, Hyundai and J Sainsbury, made its forecast yesterday as it announced a 116 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30, from £1.8 million to £3.89 million.

Turnover was up 88 per cent, from £27.8 million to £52.3 million, with earnings per share up 93 per cent from 6.92p to 13.36p. An interim dividend of 3.75p (1.75p) will be paid on October 28.

Peter Davison, finance director, said: "We are confident that the market is going to grow until the millennium comes around and then there will be a slowdown. We are looking to overseas markets to deal with that."

Severfield reported strong growth in all of its divisions except Manabo, the food hygiene equipment company, which incurred a £902,000 loss.

Mr Davison said sales had been poor. The strength of the pound and the BSE problem had also hit the business.

The company's management is being reviewed and a disposal or sale are being looked at.

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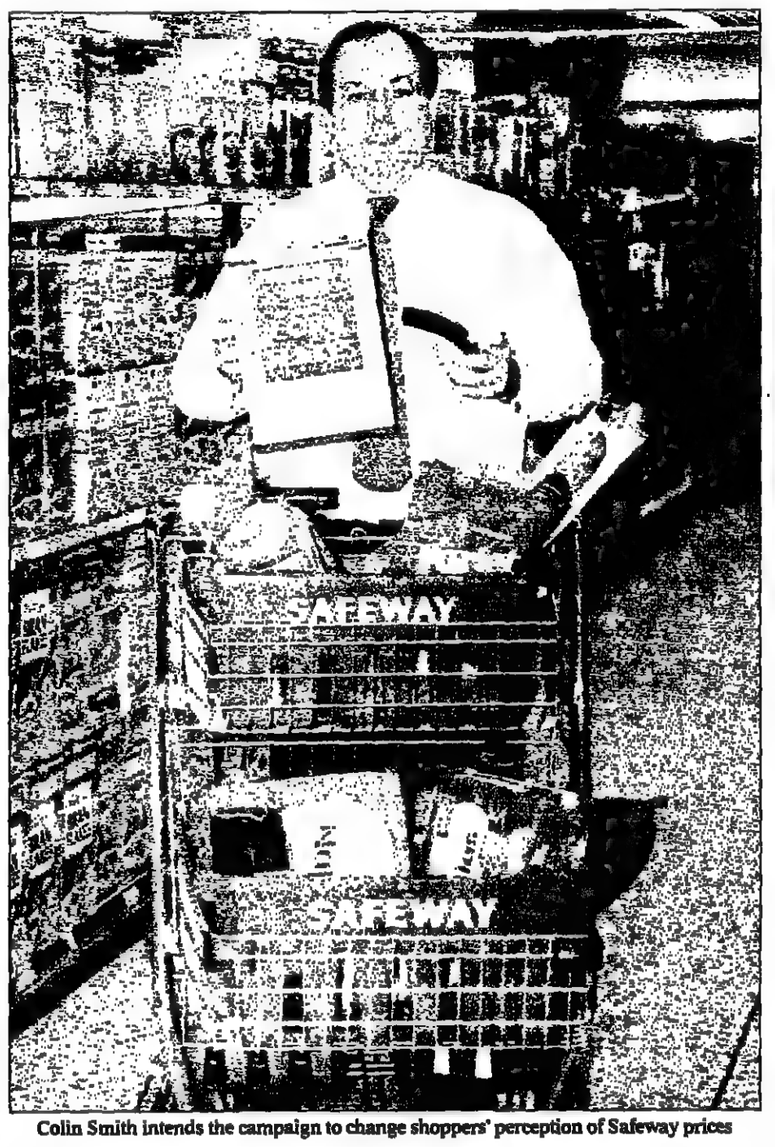

Colin Smith intends the campaign to change shoppers' perception of Safeway prices

Safeway launches £20m price campaign

By Sarah Cunningham

SAFEWAY, the supermarket group, launched a £20 million price campaign yesterday in a move which its rivals are expected to follow.

Under its new "price protected" scheme, customers will be offered certain products free if they manage to buy them cheaper at a branch of Tesco, Asda or J Sainsbury within a three-mile radius. The scheme covers 650 "everyday" items.

The Safeway initiative knocked share prices in the sector. It closed down 7½p at 379p; J Sainsbury was down 7½p to 441p, Asda 1½p to 148½p and Tesco 5p at 404½p.

Analysts said that much of the £20 million will come out of Safeway's existing advertising and promotion budgets, but they nonetheless trimmed their profit forecasts. BZW, Safeway's broker, cut its forecast for this year from £455 million to £450 million pre-tax profit, while NatWest Markets moved from £458 million to £449 million.

Tesco and Asda are considered the groups most likely to launch campaigns offering still lower prices in the autumn. "There is a slight risk of a downward spiral, but it looks as if Safeway was mainly looking to make a pre-emptive strike," one analyst said.

Safeway, whose chief executive is Colin Smith, said it had launched the campaign because it had become aware that customers believe it has higher prices than its rivals.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.29	2.11
Austria Sch	21.85	19.99
Belgium Fr	60.78	58.02
Canada $	2.365	2.177
Cyprus Cypt	0.908	0.806
Denmark Kr	11.77	10.88
Finland Mkk	9.34	8.59
France Fr	10.35	9.57
Germany Dm	3.10	2.89
Greece Dr	487	448
Hong Kong $	13.27	12.07
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.15	1.08
Israel Shk	5.99	5.34
Italy Lira	3043	2806
Japan Yen	204.63	187.10
Malta	0.673	0.614
Netherlds Gld	3.498	3.201
New Zealand $	2.68	2.43
Norway Kr	12.84	11.90
Portugal Esc	310.03	288.00
S Africa Rd	8.37	7.31
Spain Pta	259.29	240.50
Sweden Kr	13.67	12.57
Switzerland Fr	2.58	2.37
Turkey Lira	274032	254154
USA $	1.718	1.579

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

BAe sends Prestwick redundancy notices

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

MORE than 270 workers at British Aerospace's Prestwick plant in South Ayrshire, Scotland, will today receive redundancy notices after the cancellation of a loss-making civil aircraft building programme.

BAe announced the end of the Jetstream 41 with the loss of 380 jobs in May. The company blamed a tough market in regional aircraft. A spokesman yesterday said that demand for turbo prop aircraft has fallen and, where it existed, the market was highly competitive.

The company has since been negotiating with workers and unions and said that 100 workers have opted for voluntary redundancy and 60 have taken jobs at other BAe plants. He said talks concerning transfers are continuing and that BAe has 300 vacancies across its operations.

Unions claim that the jobs could have been saved by transferring work from other plants and by redirecting some work currently sent to subcontractors. The Eurofighter project that starts in 1998 will not help Prestwick. Manufacturing is to be centred at BAe's plants in Lancashire and East Yorkshire.

British Biotech increases pensions for executives

By Paul Durman

BRITISH BIOTECH, which hopes to launch its first drug next year, has more than doubled the level of pension contributions that it pays to its executive directors.

It will in future pay 19 per cent of salary into its pension scheme, up from a previous maximum of 9 per cent.

The change means Keith McCullagh, British Biotech's chief executive and highest paid director, will this year receive pension contributions of £57,000 (or more if his salary rises from £300,000), up from £27,000 last year. The rest of the Oxford company's 410 employees will not receive improved pensions.

A spokeswoman said that, having taken external advice, it was "very clear" that previous pension contributions were well below the level typically paid by other FTSE 250 and pharmaceutical companies.

Dr McCullagh was paid a £108,000 performance bonus last year, giving him a total pay package of £419,000, 59 per cent up from £263,000 in the previous year. He also owns British Biotech shares worth £13.8 million and options worth about £5 million. British Biotech's annual report shows that James Noble received £204,000 compensation for loss of office after resigning as finance director in February.

Mr Noble, who played a key role in establishing British Biotech's standing in the City, had to give up share options worth about £2 million on his departure. He made a profit of about £2.3 million exercising other options. Two other departing directors, Ronald Irwin and John Gordon, made £2.4 million and £2.9 million respectively from their options.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Housing market lull blamed on holidays

THE housing market has been hit by a "summer slowdown", according to a report by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The report will fuel debate about whether the much-discussed recovery is faltering. It blames interest rate rises, the traditional holiday lull, and the Budget for stifling the housing market's progress last month. Its research comes after figures from the Halifax showing that British house prices rose just 0.1 per cent in July and 0.3 per cent in June. The Halifax has rejected suggestions that the recovery is grinding to a halt and said this was steady, healthy growth.

The RICS described the situation as "a slight pause" as people went on holiday, digested the contents of the July 2 Budget and speculated about interest rates rising again. "These influences are expected to continue throughout August before the market rallies for the autumn," said the RICS. However, the market is expected to slow down next year with prices rising 6 per cent — as opposed to almost 10 per cent this year. Despite the summer lull, July saw a narrowing of the North-South divide on prices.

Taylor Nelson record

TAYLOR NELSON, the market research company, is looking to expand further into Eastern Europe after the success of its Gallup acquisition in Denmark helped it to deliver record results in the six months to June 30, as pre-tax profits jumped 38 per cent to £5.5 million. The healthcare arm lifted revenues 20 per cent to £7.7 million, but sales at the business division were down 11 per cent to £3.2 million. Overall, earnings increased to 1.68p (1.23p) a share. An interim dividend of 0.5p (0.28p) is due on December 19.

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Texaco in $1.1bn deal

TEXACO, the oil group, has agreed to buy Monterey Resources, a Californian oil and natural gas producer, for more than $1.1 billion (£674 milion) in stock. America's third largest oil company will exchange about $21 worth of its stock for each of Monterey's 54.8 million outstanding shares, worth $1.15 billion. In addition it will assume $285 million of Monterey debt. Monterey's stock jumped $5.25 to $20.31 in reaction. Texaco said the acquisition will add 385 million barrels of oil reserves to its US asset base.

Volkswagen accelerates

VOLKSWAGEN, the German carmaker, lifted net profits to DM488 million (£166.2 million) from DM282 million in the six months to June 30. At the pre-tax level profits were DM1.39 billion (DM891 million). Vehicle deliveries rose to 2.19 million (1.99 million), in spite of a fall in the German domestic market to 508,704 (516,413). Group turnover improved to DM56.5 billion (DM50.5 billion). Volkswagen, Europe's largest auto manufacturer, produces vehicles under the Volkswagen, Skoda, Seat and Audi brand names.

ICI sale approved

ICI's shareholders yesterday approved the group's sale of three of its industrial chemicals businesses to DuPont of the US for $3 billion (£1.9 billion). The sale of the polyester polymer, polyester film and titanium dioxide businesses is part of an extensive overhaul that will move ICI away from commodity chemicals and concentrate its activities on more profitable speciality operations. Separately, ICI has agreed to buy a 9.1 per cent stake in Asian Paints (India) from Kotak Mohindra Capital Company for nearly 1.3 billion rupees (£23 million).

Microvitec in the red

MICROVITEC, the computer software and networking group, went into the red in the six months to June 30, incurring pre-tax losses of £424,000, compared with profits of £1.6 million. Turnover fell 38 per cent, from £33.8 million to £20.9 million, and earnings per share were cut from 1.4p to 0.1p. No dividend will be paid (0.425p). James Bailey, chairman, blamed the poor performance on the company's display division, which saw a 75 per cent fall in export sales. He added that the business had been hit by the strength of sterling.

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Torday passes dividend

TORDAY & CARLISLE, the diesel engine, marine and automotive components company, is again passing the interim dividend in spite of achieving a modest increase in pre-tax profits to £613,000 (£574,000) in the six months to June 30. Earnings were unchanged at 2.8p a share. Turnover eased slightly to £9.26 million (£10.67 million). The company's car die business was affected by delays in big contracts, while European marine and industrial markets suffered from the uncertainties surrounding continental economies.

Sherwood hampered

SHERWOOD INTERNATIONAL, the supplier of information technology to the insurance industry, said its efforts to expand continue to be hampered by the shortage of experienced IT staff. The company said it was putting "maximum effort into recruiting and retaining high calibre personnel". Sherwood reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £1.05 million from £705,000 for the six months to June 30. Earnings rose to 7.9p a share from 5.6p. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.8p (1.5p).

Far East markets and currencies fall again

Hong Kong warns speculators

By Rachel Holmes

JOSEPH YAM, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority chief executive, vowed to peg the Hong Kong to the American dollar to "burn" currency speculators with high interest rates. The threat was delivered while Hong Kong markets were closed, but while speculators continued to attack other Far East currencies.

The Hong Kong dollar is the last Far East currency to maintain a link with the American dollar after the Indonesian rupiah was allowed to float on Friday.

Mr Yam said he was ready to punish speculators with crippling interest rates. "Those banks involved in the speculation will suffer by paying a high interest rate to get the Hong Kong dollar funding to settle the deals. We may charge them 12 per cent or even 60 per cent."

He promised: "The speculators will find that the funding cost for them to buy the Hong Kong dollar to settle their deals is far more than they earn from the exchange rate."

Meanwhile currency and equity markets tumbled across South-East Asia again yesterday. In spite of government attempts to calm the markets over the weekend, including an unusual exhortation from Indonesian President Suharto, South-East Asian currencies plunged to new depths yesterday, taking equities with them.


Hong Kong is trying to avoid Far East turmoil

The rupiah came close to breaching the 3,000 to the dollar barrier before closing at 2,970.80. On the Jakarta Stock Exchange composite index, shares fell 8 per cent at one point before staging a partial recovery to close down 2.9 per cent at 599.64. The Philippine peso slid to new lows, ending at 30.14 to the dollar, compared with 25.80 at Friday' close. The Thai baht and Malaysian ringgit experienced similar declines, which — along with Friday's sell-off on Wall Street — sent shares sliding downwards.

Ravi Buchandani, global currency economist at Morgan Stanley, argues that Hong Kong has a "better chance of withstanding this episode" than other Far East economies. Not only do the combined reserves of the Chinese and Hong Kong monetary authorities amount to more than $180 billion (£112 billion), the Hong Kong dollar has thus far remained on the strong side of its unofficial trading band.

The miracle Budge couldn't work

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Richard Budge is a man of foresight and imagination. In 1994, he had the imagination to see the potential for his little firm putting in a bid for what was left of British Coal and turning itself, overnight, into Europe's largest independently owned coal mining company. In July last year, he had the foresight to sell a chunk of his shares, bringing him a useful £1.2 million profit.

Some other shareholders may today be wishing that they had done the same as Mr Budge, for the price he achieved for his shares was 553p against the 312½p where they now languish.

The generous purchaser of his RJB stock was none other than RJB itself, an early enthusiast for the share buy-backs which are now so fashionable. With profits rising and RJB apparently demonstrating that there was indeed money to be made from coal mining, the buy-back was a gesture of confidence.

But by then the company knew that Ashfordby was a problem pit. What it refers to as "unique" geological problems had had the effect of bringing the roof tumbling in. Unless new techniques could be found, the undeniably rich seams of Ashfordby would be impossible to mine.

The miners of Ashfordby are insistent that there are ways of extricating the coal, but at a price. That price does not make commercial sense for RJB any more than it did to British Coal.

For a time, Mr Budge gave a convincing performance of privatisation being able to do for mining what it had done for British Telecom. The £815 million he had paid the Government for the collection of collieries began to look like a steal, and as profits soared, the company paid down its debt way ahead of schedule.

But while investors enthused over the Budge miracle and the share price soared, the fundamentals of the industry had not changed.

The £189 million profit that RJB made last year owed much to the pickings from mines that are coming to their ends. Ashfordby was once viewed as the mine of the future that would ensure the country's coal supply for future decades.

But the company has already written off the £78 million costs of Ashfordby and can now argue that closure is the only commercially sensible option. This view may or may not be coloured by the state of the RJB balance sheet, which does not look ready to pump fortunes into the pit.

That level of investment might, in the long term, have produced profits for RJB and its shareholders, although, without a guarantee from Government that it would forcibly encourage power stations to buy British coal, the economics look risky.

Critics of the closure should bear in mind that governments can take long-term strategic views on the use of natural resources, but companies are in business to make profits.

If the aim of Mr Budge and RJB was to make a quick turn on under-priced national assets, not to save miners' jobs, we should not be surprised.

WH Smith chief must divide to rule

Considering the difficulty of the task, it is encouraging to see so many internal candidates vying for the top job at WH Smith. Bill Cockburn had barely ventured inside the business before deciding that BT was an altogether more attractive proposition.

But so keen for advancement are the chaps at WH Smith that it seems they may even be putting together manifestos and, in passing, mentioning them to the odd institutional investor who might be passing.

This puts a new twist on corporate governance and we should almost certainly recommend Sir Ronald Hampel and his gang to pronounce on the etiquette of such electioneering.

The new chief executive of WH Smith will certainly be in position before they can produce their report but there are growing suggestions that he may set about tearing the business apart as soon as he has taken his seat. Analysts and venture capitalists have all done their sums on a break up of WH Smith and they can find plenty of value to justify it.

They have, of course, done similar exercises on just about every company and precious little activity has emerged as a result. Sears was a favourite break-up candidate for years but nothing happened and eventually the company was prevailed upon to initiate the deed itself. Now, Dalgety is in the frame as the favourite target for bored financiers.

The financial arguements for break-ups are rarely clear cut. In the case of WH Smith, however, there is a strong logical reason for why a break-up should be considered. It is that WH Smith is currently competing against itself. The relative success of its Waterstones bookshops and Virgin Our Price music stores is bought at the expense of the main WH Smith chain. This process of cannibalisation has been going on for years, and if it continues, the results could be exceedingly painful.

A break-up would allow the main chain to rediscover a raison d'etre. Virgin would almost certainly be happy to regain control of its music business and Waterstones would attract potential purchasers. Whether that would produce the sort of break-up margin that analysts currently divine is doubtful: mutterings of around £5 seem highly optimistic.

But the logic of dividing this business into its component parts is clear. If that features in one of the manifestos, it should be a winner.

Manna from the high street

Continentals scourging themselves in vain in their misguided drive to qualify for the euro will surely cast an envious and reflective glance at Britain's improving fiscal balance. The lesson, as French, German and Italian finance officials know but dare not admit, is that growth is good for the public finances.

Recovery has taken a long time to feed through into the UK's fiscal balance, as evidenced by years of over-optimistic forecasts of falling public sector borrowing requirements. Now, things may be coming good at last.

Underlying growth of VAT receipts may have been disguised by changes in the system of payment but there is no hiding a 12 per cent year-on-year gain in income tax receipts. The Office of National Statistics feared that the change to self-assessment might cause payments to lag. Either fear is making taxpayers queue up early or the underlying growth in incomes, enhanced by fiscal drag, is bigger than some other official figures suggest.

If revenue remains buoyant into winter, it will be manna from heaven for the Government. At the moment, ministers are sticking doggedly to their spending budgets, but some will soon become incompatible with election pledges, especially as higher short-term inflation has shrunk their real value.

At this stage of recovery, the Government should be borrowing nothing, but the markets should not assume that buoyant revenue will translate into smaller gilt-edged issues this year.

Mogadon Monday

AFTER those fearful Fridays, thank goodness for Mogadon Mondays in the markets. Both owe much to thin August trading. Fund managers who could take a lead are away and market-makers can manipulate shares back on course. Meanwhile, prices are, jerkily, trending down, as they need to on Wall Street. If insiders do their stuff, most of the correction might even be achieved by the time the big players return in two weeks' time.

Cautious Argos reduces prices

By Sarah Cunningham

ARGOS, the catalogue retailer, is cutting many of its prices in a bid to gain market share ahead of the crucial Christmas trading period.

In its autumn/winter catalogue, 98 per cent of its repeated lines are at the same price or cheaper than in the previous catalogue and the goods' prices come out an overall 3.5 per cent lower. The cuts will knock 0.5 per cent off the gross margin.

The company, which had a disappointing Christmas last year and was forced to issue a profit warning in January, also plans to take on more staff ahead of the seasonal rush this time round.

Some analysts were surprised at the aggressiveness of Argos's pricing. "It shows they are under pressure. They have increased their cost base and need the volume," Sean Eddie at NatWest Markets said. Robert Miller at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said: "They are being even more aggressive than usual on prices. They clearly don't want to be gazumped by Woolworths or anyone else."

The company yesterday reported that underlying sales in the first half had grown 5.3 per cent to £627 million. Like-for-like sales growth has increased to 8 per cent in the first eight weeks of the second half. In the 24 weeks to June 14 pre-tax profit was down 11.6 per cent to £28.1 million. The company blamed the fall on the cost of paying a special dividend in May last year, and on increased catalogue and advertising costs.

In a cautious accompanying statement, the company said that "current buoyancy in consumer confidence and overall retail sales may not be sustainable". It nonetheless said that it expects a stronger second-half performance than last year and for profits in the year as a whole to be above last year's.

Mike Smith, chief executive, played down plans for an acquisition. He said that Argos could spend up to £1 billion, but is in no hurry and is only interested in a non-food, non-clothing retail business in the UK.

An expansion into Holland is set to cost up to £5 million this year and up to £8 million next year. The first five stores are due to open next February. Breakeven is not expected until 2001. A decision on whether to take Argos into other countries in Western and Central Europe will be taken in 1999, Mr Smith said.

Back in Britain, no decision has yet been taken on whether to roll out Argos's discount First Stop stores, which the company has been testing for the past two years.

Argos is paying an interim dividend of 6.1p, up from 5.3p, on November 17. Its shares closed down 1½p at 621½p.

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Pillar buys CW Harris Properties

PILLAR Properties, the property investment and development company, has acquired CW Harris Properties, controlled by Lord Harris of Peckham, the founder and chairman of Carpetright (Eric Reguly writes).

Of the £15.6 million price, £12.4 million is cash, with the rest in new Pillar shares at 23½p. Harris Properties has net assets of £25.9 million, including loans of £11.7 million.

The portfolio includes five retail warehouses that generate rents of £3.5 million a year. Tenants include Carpetright, Homebase, Currys and Halfords.

Humphrey Price, Pillar's finance director, said the deal was attractive because the Government is clamping down on the construction of new retail warehouses. The acquisition, he said, makes Pillar the second-largest owner of retail warehouses.

TONY WHITE

Ian Yeoman, finance director of Ultra Electronics, left, and Julian Blogh expect to double sales in the commercial aerospace markets

Ultra sees a 26% increase in orders

By Chris Ayres

ULTRA ELECTRONICS, the aerospace and defence technology group that floated in September last year, boosted orders 26 per cent from £174 million to £220 million in the six months to June 30.

It said that its deliveries over the next two years, lifted by the purchase of EMS and Flightline, the US electronics groups, would produce 12 to 15 per cent growth in earnings and dividends. Julian Blogh, chief executive, said: "We've had pretty chunky growth this year, with a healthy order book and continued progress in both divisions."

Ultra's long-term deals include a £100 million contract to produce joystick controls and missile coolers for the Eurofighter 2000 and a £53 million contract to supply submarine-detection equipment for Nimrods.

Although defence budgets have stabilised and orders are strong, Ultra says it expects to double sales over the next three to four years in the commercial aerospace markets.

The company reported a 16.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, from £7.4 million to £8.7 million, on turnover of £71.5 million, up 23.7 per cent from £57.8 million.

Earnings per share were up 32.9 per cent from 7.3p to 9.7p. A dividend of 2.4p (nil) will be paid on October 1.

Merrydown sheds another director

By Dominic Walsh

MERRYDOWN, the embattled cidermaker, has parted company with Stephen Burke, the finance director, as part of a £1.5 million cost-cutting programme promised in July. His resignation follows the recent departure of Alan Rutherford, sales and marketing director.

Richard Purdey, chairman, told the annual meeting yesterday that Mr Burke, who has been with Merrydown for three-and-a-half years, was resigning as "part of a planned career development move". After the meeting, a spokesman declined to be drawn on the amount of Mr Burke's compensation. He was on a two-year contract.

His deputy, Michael Dinnis, who joined in 1995 from Green Giant, part of Grand Metropolitan's food empire, replaces him. The post of financial controller is scrapped.

Some analysts had expected Mr Purdey to step down in the wake of the collapse of sales of Two Dogs, the alcoholic lemonade manufactured by Merrydown. Although he is staying for now, insiders believe it is only a matter of time before either Mr Purdey or Paul Millman, managing director, step down. One said: "You've effectively got a managing director and a chairman and chief executive, both full-time, in what is a relatively small company. Something's got to give, though not just yet."

DLJ poised for London Global deal

By Robert Miller

DONALDSON Lufkin & Jenrette (DLJ), one of Wall Street's most successful investment banks, is believed to be on the verge of a completing a near £100 million deal to buy London Global Securities.

The acquisitive DLJ, founded in 1959 and named after its three Harvard Business School founders, already owns Phoenix Securities, the London mergers and acquisitions boutique it bought for an estimated £50 million in January.

The proposed purchase of London Global, one of the largest independent securities-lending brokerage firms, would further enhance DLJ's standing in London. In the US the investment bank is noted for its strength in certain key sectors and markets such as US high-yield stocks, media and corporate finance.

A spokesman for London Global Securities, which was founded seven years ago by Paloma Partners, a private US investment company, said last night: "At this time we really haven't anything to say. Please call back in a couple of days."

Hewlett-Packard disappoints

From a correspondent in California

HEWLETT-PACKARD, America's second-largest computer manufacturer after IBM, achieved a 45 per cent rise in third-quarter profits but still fell short of stock market expectations.

The company earned $617 million (£383 million) in the three months to July 31, up from $425 million in the third quarter of the previous year. But comparable figures for last year were affected by a $135 million charge against the disposal of the disk-drive business. The increase in underlying profits was just 11 per cent. Revenue rose 15 per cent to $10.5 billion from $9.11 billion.

Lewis E. Platt, chairman, said the company enjoyed healthy gains in orders and revenues from its personal computers, printers and chip-testing equipment. But the company spent more to stimulate demand, he said.

Hewlett-Packard, based in Palo Alto, California, makes computers ranging from PCs to powerful business machines for many users. It is also a leading maker of test and measurement equipment.

During the quarter HP enjoyed a 19 per cent gain in orders, led by 25 per cent growth in America. The company was one of several PC manufacturers to cut prices to boost sales. HP's cost of sales also rose 14 per cent during the May-July quarter, eating into its profits.

For the first nine months of the year the company's profits have risen 19 per cent to $2.31 billion from $1.94 billion. Revenue is up 10 per cent to $31.1 billion from $28.3 billion.

Swiss parent to decide on Bally's fate

By Sarah Cunningham

Bally's future is undecided

THE fate of Bally, one of the best-known quality shoe brands on the high street, was left hanging in the balance yesterday after its management presented plans for a revamp to the Swiss parent company.

Ernst Thomke, the chief executive of Bally, has already publicly fallen out with its owner, Oerlikon-Buehrle Holding, the secretive Swiss weapons-to-fashion conglomerate, over whether Bally should have its own listing, and the size of a much-needed cash injection.

Herr Thomke said in a Swiss newspaper interview this month that he would not rule out leaving the company if the row was not settled.

The dispute followed a statement by Hans Widmer, chairman of Oerlikon, that conditions for floating Bally as a separate company were not right. He has also said that the restructuring of Bally, which Herr Thomke was brought in to do, was going more slowly than expected.

Herr Thomke has also been criticised by Hortense Anda-Buerhle, a Buerhle family shareholder and member of the Oerlikon board, who said: "He should quit talking. What is needed now is hard work."

A spokeswoman for Oerlikon said yesterday that, after the presentation, a decision on what to do about Bally will be taken in the next few weeks.

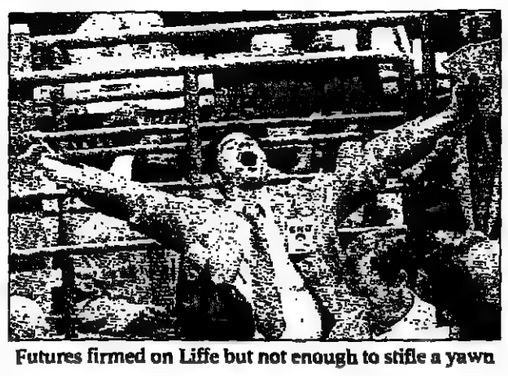
Herr Thomke, who is highly rated as a company director in Switzerland, has admitted that he underestimated the cost of restructuring Bally. The cost was initially put at about £42 million, but analysts estimate it could rise to as much as £60 million.

The British Bally retail operation is run by a subsidiary of the Swiss company, Bally UK Sales. Many of the shoes found in the shops, which number more than 40, come from Switzerland, with others made in Italy, Spain and the UK. Oerlikon's shares, listed in Switzerland, have suffered since the end of June because of speculation about the row between Bally and the main board.

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Fears of slide recede as market recovers its nerve



Futures firmed on Liffe but not enough to stifle a yawn

NO HOLIDAYS were cancelled, no fund managers tossed themselves *out of tall* buildings, and most dealers sat on their money for the day.

Despite expectations of blood on the dealing room floor, the market recovered its nerve after last Friday's sudden dive. There was a nervous start with an early morning *fall of 80 points* that took the FTSE 100 back below 4,800, but shares clawed back some of *their lost ground, helped by* support from firmer futures and gilts.

Following the erratic progress of the Dow Jones industrial average, the FTSE drifted back towards the end of the day to end 30.8 points down at 4,835, though volumes were thin with *little more* than 500 million shares traded.

With a large number of companies going ex-dividend yesterday it was, said dealers, a strong result although the *uncertainty was far from over*.

BTR, the diversified industrial group, confidently *bucked the trend throughout* the day, putting on 6½p to 221½p, and leading the list of *FTSE 100 top performing* shares. Talk of releasing value through a break-up gave the *shares a further lift yesterday* after overseas buyers, particularly from America, boosted *the shares last week*.

Some analysts shied away from the term "break-up", *preferring instead to talk of* BTR looking to substantial disposals to move the business towards a more focused engineering stock.

BT was the also the focus of attention in the thin market. It *was the most heavily traded* amongst FTSE 100 stocks, with more than 42 million *shares traded*. Interest was sparked by SGST, the broker, reiterating its buy recommen*dation. BT shares ended un*changed at 381½p, while **Cable & Wireless** was also *sought after*, ending at 558½p, up 1½p. **Orange** rose 1½p to 212½p.

Banks again saw red, with **HSBC Holdings** marked down a further 70½p to £20.97 *to end as the worst performing* FTSE 100 stock. NatWest, Lloyds TSB and the Halifax were also in retreat and *among the most traded stocks*.

In the uncertain stock market waters, utilities proved an attractive haven. Among the best performers were **National Power**, surging 11p to 518½p, with **Severn Trent** up 10½p to 847½p and **PowerGen** moving up 8½p to 721p. **ScottishPower**, going ex-dividend, missed out on the party and ended off 13½p at 415½p.

National Grid rose 3p to 259p, after weekend speculation, later denied, that it was to float its Energis telecom business this year.

Pharmaceuticals recovered *some of the ground lost in* Friday's slide, following the US where drugs groups were *sought in early trading*. Fa*voured UK stocks are* **Glaxo Wellcome**, which yesterday was off 5p at £11.95½, **Zeneca**, up 7½p at £18.90, and **SmithKline Beecham**, 7½p higher at £10.86½. **Cortecs International**, after news of gaining a US patent for its flu vaccine, jumped 10p before sliding back to close at 216½p, up 1½p.

Centrica was one of the most heavily traded stocks with nearly *ten million shares* changing hands, and the shares rising 1½p to 89½p.

Argos *recovered from an* early slide to end 1½p lower at 621½p, after a mixed response *to interim results. Some ana*lysts were trimming back full-year forecasts.

Elsewhere in the retailing sector, **Sears** put on 2½p to 62p, after it was confirmed *that the large chunk of shares* traded on Friday, had been acquired by PDFM, the fund *manager. The acquisition of* the 69 million shares lifts PDFM's stake to 20.5 per cent.

Storehouse *was also in* demand, putting on 7p to 228½p while **W H Smith**, the *focus of break-up speculation* over the weekend, added 2p to 58½p. **Laura Ashley**, the fashion and furnishings group, faded 4½p to 56½p, ahead of this week's trading statement *which is likely to warn of first*-half losses.

News of the closure of the *Asfordby mine in Leicester*shire sent shares in owner **RJB Mining** 16p lower at one point. The shares closed at a new low point for the year of 312½p, down 5p.

Oil shares slid back, with **BP** down 13p to 837½p while **Burmah Castrol** fell back 12½p to £10.62½ after an*nouncing the £23 million ac*quisition of a chemicals business and the £15 million *disposal of Columbia Cement*.

Merrydown, the cider group, ended up ½p at 60½p *after news of the resignation of* Stephen Burke, finance director.

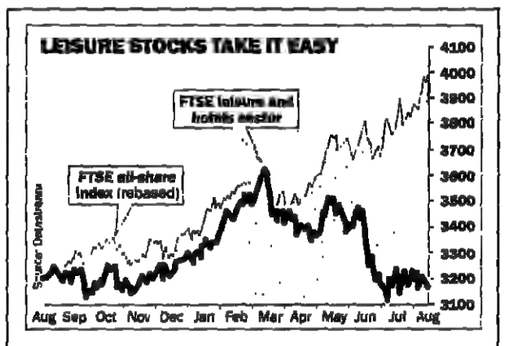
Bid speculation sent shares in **Boosey & Hawkes**, the musical instruments and publishing group, *27½p higher to* 847½p.

Penna Holdings put on 12½p to 118½p after recent share purchases by directors.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Better than expected figures on public sector debt repayment gave the gilts market a lift, increasing demand for issued gilt stock. A *stronger* opening on US markets further boosted confidence. The *September series of the long* gilt put £$^{14}/_{32}$ to £115 $^{2}/_{32}$ with the number of contracts com*pleted 43,000*.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at £102$^{22}/_{32}$ *while longs moved ahead*, with Treasury 8 per cent 2015 up £$^{17}/_{32}$ at £110$^{15}/_{32}$.

☐ ***NEW YORK:*** *Blue chips* turned lower in late morning trade as bonds and futures shed some of their earlier gains. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.86 points to 7,962.80 by midday.



FIRST LEISURE provided a small stir of excitement in *a sector that has largely* missed out on recent rises.

Speculation that Bass *had the disco to bingo* group headed by Michael Grade in its sights sent *First Leisure shares 11½p* higher to 322½p. The group which owns Blackpool Tower *has looked vulnera*ble because of its poor share price performance.

The leisure and hotel sector has lagged behind the market, just when it would seem that increased consumer confidence and windfall gains should be impacting on leisure spending. But says Bruce Jones, *analyst at Merrill Lynch, it* is holiday operators who have mopped up much of *this spending while rising* interest rates have kept the lid on prospects for leisure *operators*.

Ladbroke ended 3½p higher at 253½p while Bass *was up 11½p to 839½p after* Camelot failed in its bid to stop the 49s betting game. *Rank* ended 1½p firmer at 336p. It continued its share buyback programme, buying 500,000 shares at 333p, returning £1.67 million to investors.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7962.80 (-1.86)
S&P Composite	900.40 (-0.41)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19041.10 (-384.93)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	Closed
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	917.49 (-23.06)
Sydney:	
AO	2618.5 (-47.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4078.60 (-74.26)
Singapore:	
Straits	1918.85 (-34.95)
Brussels:	
General	13436.53 (-283.92)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2870.13 (-51.71)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1173.20 (-14.30)
London:	
FT 30	3124.8 (-18.5)
FTSE 100	4835.0 (-30.8)
FTSE 250	4663.6 (-34.6)
FTSE 350	2340.6 (-15.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2576.75 (-62.22)
FTSE All-Share	2287.37 (-15.03)
FTSE Non Financials	2304.62 (+0.04)
FTSE Fixed Interest	126.02 (+0.48)
FTSE Govt Secs	96.98 (+0.25)
Bargains	49041
SEAQ Volume	595.9m
US$	1.6106 (+0.0013)
German Mark	2.9350 (+0.0077)
Exchange Index	102.3 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4833
£:SDR	1.1800
RPI	157.5 Jul (3.3%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	156.4 Jul (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofgsta Uts	407½	- 2½
Billiton	234	...
Blakes Clothing	80	...
Bristol & West Prf	108¼	+ ¼
Cammell Laird	136	- 2½
EMI B	115	...
Fairfield Ents	117½	...
Fairplace Consulting	3½	...
GR Holdings	55	...
Galen Holdings	195	...
Helicon Pubslg	99	- ½
Ionica Group	371	- 2½
Kingfisher Leisure	175½	...
LEPCO	78½	...
Landround	94½	...
Metroline	206½	- 1
Reabourne Merlin	108	- ½
SBS Group	109½	+ 1
Severn Trent B	34½	...
Stentor Warrants	50	...
Thorn B	20½	...
Vigien Technology	65	- ½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Golden Land n/p (21)	2½	...
Logica n/p (605)	186½	- 31

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Helphire Gp	220p (+16½p)
Scoba	280p (+10p)
Photobition	640p (+17½p)
Bass	839p (+11½p)
Parity	492p (+8p)
Dixons Gp	609½p (+8p)
Granada	799p (+8½p)
FALLS:	
HK Land	190½p (-12p)
MAID	199p (-9½p)
Lavendon	241½p (-9p)
Hozelock	298p (-11½)
Servisair	325p (-11½p)
Psion	364½p (-12p)
Tibbet & Britn	556p (-17½p)
Shield Diag	502½p (-15p)
Henlys	434p (-12½p)
David Brown	203½p (-12p)
Kenwood App	103½p (-14p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Still treading warily

THE lugubrious bosses of Argos seemed happier delivering the disappointing news on first-half trading yesterday than in the past when they have reported a really outstanding set of figures. Perverse, but *understandable* given their experiences over the last year.

A year ago, Argos said it had a record first *half, with like-for-like sales growth of over 11* per cent. The result was a wave of forecast upgrades and a jump in the share price. Words of caution on a potentially difficult Christmas and on higher costs were ignored.

As shareholders will be aware, the result was a horrible mess. A profit warning in *January following a terrible second half led* the shares to plunge 15 per cent in one day.

This time, the company was very careful to *point to upcoming one-off costs. Its aggres*sive pricing should guarantee better sales *around* Christmas, particularly as there is less doubt about festive trading this year: some money from windfalls is certainly being saved for generous *Christmas presents*.

While few doubts remain about this year's outcome, the longer term prospects at Argos are less clear. It seems extremely unwilling to spend *any of its cash* on a meaningful acquisition and there is no knowing how it will do in Holland. It is also being extremely cautious about *rolling out its discount store*, First Stop.

Argos appears to have ensured that it will not suffer a repeat of the roller-coaster *ride of the last 12 months*. But since it is having to buy market share through sacrificing margin, it looks equally unlikely that its shares will *rate much more than their* current 5 per cent premium to the sector. Hold.

Taylor Nelson

INVESTORS in Taylor Nelson could be forgiven for thinking that they have not been *invited to the party* going on in the market research business.

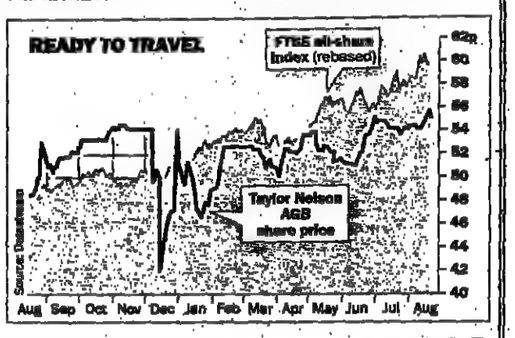
In a sector growing at 10 per cent in the UK alone, Taylor Nelson shares are off 6 per cent in a year. Its profits have jumped, but the shares are still lagging and *show few signs of life*.

So what has gone wrong? The answer seems to be diversification. It strayed from using researchers with clipboards and ball points into door-to-door distribution. This failed and it lost £1.5 million.

This, it now says, was an *irksome diversion from what* is a solid underlying business. Indeed, earnings have *come through stronger than* expected and profits are still on course to double by the year end.

But much of this is already in the price, with the shares trading on 16.8 time's this *year's earnings — not* cheap for a small company. They still command a rarity value: *Taylor Nelson is the only* quoted firm among the largest of the UK's market research firms.

The high quality earnings story is spoiled by the the *management's* penchant for adventurism. After an impressive acquisition in Denmark, it is making noises about conquering Eastern Europe. Givenwhat happened *last time it stepped* into unknown territory, investors could find better value elsewhere.



Severfield

IT IS a puzzle. Why on earth does Severfield-Reeve whose specialist steel business is *storming the market, put up* with Manabo, a failing business that makes hygiene *equipment for abattoirs?*

While Manabo continues to be completely ignored by the food industry, it is busy *making* an unpleasant little loss for Severfield, which this half amounted to £902,000.

It *must surely be only* a matter of time before the directors of Severfield tire of *such a bizarre addition to* their main business.

Investors irritated by Manabo's *continued pres*ence can at least console themselves with the mouthwatering *performance of* Rowen, a much more obvious fit with the group's steel structure business.

Rowen was bought at the same time as Manabo last year for only £800,000, a price which it probably earned back in profits within a month. Its order book is at record levels and profits will *go through the ceiling if it* gets the go-ahead to start work on Heathrow terminal *five*.

It is reassuring to see Severfield taking steps to prepare for a possible slump in the construction market by increasing exports. Over the past two years, Severfield's low production costs have enabled it to increase exports from 1 per cent to *27* per cent of sales, despite the strong pound. Investors can put up with Manabo. Buy.

Microvitec

SINCE the middle of last year, Microvitec has piled misery upon misery. Four *profit warnings have slashed* the shares from 71½p to 15¼p, and exposed the extent of the company's reliance on its biggest customers and North American marketing partner.

First-half sales of computer display monitors virtually halved to £11.4 million, a level last seen seven years ago and *the main reason for the inter*im operating loss of £2.9 million. The strong pound was partly to *blame, but the loss* of sales to Bloomberg, the financial news group, under*lines a more fundamental* weakness.

Microvitec's move away from software and into networking remains wholly convincing. SilCom in Canada has staged a modest recovery after last year's problems, but the division's sales and profits are both sharply low*er. It is hardly encouraging to* learn that the creation of a network systems integrator has led to the loss of both management and sales staff.

Microvitec has complained that it has been judged overharshly and suggests it is now turning the corner. But it faces a long struggle to establish any credibility after such a calamitous series of mishaps.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	[illegible]	Dec	[illegible]
Dec	[illegible]	Mar	[illegible]
Mar	[illegible]	May	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	Jul	[illegible]
Jul	[illegible]		
Sep	[illegible]		Volume [illegible]

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	[illegible]	Mar	[illegible]
Nov	[illegible]	Jul	[illegible]
Jan	[illegible]	Sep	[illegible]
Mar	[illegible]		Volume [illegible]

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters [illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

[illegible]

p/kg lwt	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.50	-0.40
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.9[illegible]	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Nov)	18.9[illegible]	-0.31
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	[illegible]	-0.16
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	[illegible]	-0.17

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gasoil EEC	[illegible]	[illegible]
3.5 Fuel Oil	[illegible]	[illegible]
Naphtha	[illegible]	[illegible]

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

[illegible]

BRENT (6.00pm)

[illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

[illegible]

LIFFE POTATO (£/t) Open Close

[illegible]

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

[illegible]

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

[illegible]

(Official) (Volume prev day) **LONDON METAL EXCHANGE** **Rudolf Wolff**

[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 97	114-23	115-06	114-23	115-02	43510
Previous open interest [illegible]	Dec 97	114-18	114-18	114-17	114-22	24
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 97	102.33	102.58	102.19	102.46	107711
Previous open interest [illegible]	Dec 97	101.40	101.65	101.40	101.61	3294
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 97	134.80	135.73	134.77	135.52	47796
Previous open interest [illegible]	Dec 97	107.50	107.50	107.50	107.76	234
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	126.93	126.98	126.92	1850	
	Dec 97	126.16	126.23	126.15	1175	
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 97	92.77	92.78	92.75	92.76	10322
	Dec 97	92.64	92.66	92.63	92.63	[illegible]
Previous open interest [illegible]	Mar 98	92.61	92.62	92.58	92.59	6579
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 97	96.66	96.66	96.63	96.65	18164
Previous open interest [illegible]	Dec 97	96.45	96.50	96.44	96.46	32361
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 97	93.20	93.21	93.19	93.21	6727
Previous open interest [illegible]	Dec 97	93.52	93.54	93.49	93.53	9187
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97				99.37	0
	Mar 98				99.29	0
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 97	98.42	98.47	98.40	98.42	7287
Previous open interest [illegible]	Dec 97	98.16	98.21	98.13	98.17	6271
Three Mth ECU	Sep 97	95.61	95.63	95.61	95.61	835
Previous open interest [illegible]	Dec 97	95.52	95.53	95.51	95.53	537
FTSE 100	Sep 97	4795.0	4868.0	4773.0	4843.0	11625
Previous open interest [illegible]	Dec 97	4865.0	4874.0	4865.0	[illegible]	257

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high [illegible] Low [illegible] Week fixed: [illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible] Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6[illegible] close 6[illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.56	n/a	5.60	5.69	5.88
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $325.80-326.00 **Close:** $322.75-323.30 **High:** $326.55-327.05
Low: $322.20-322.70 **AM:** $326.05 **PM:** $322.60

Krugerrand: $322.25-324.25 (£200.00-202.00)

Platinum: $423.00 (£263.59) **Silver:** $4.50 (£2.795) **Palladium:** $206.00 (£128.35)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for August 18	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2935-3.3172	3.3044-3.3070	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	59.960-60.868	60.622-60.668	22-17pr	57-50pr
Copenhagen	11.044-11.188	11.177-11.186	[illegible]	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0905-1.1054	1.0956-1.0976	13-7pr	33-23pr
Frankfurt	2.9002-2.9467	2.9344-2.9368	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	293.76-298.91	297.02-297.92	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Madrid	245.27-249.86	248.08-248.25	41-31pr	116-97pr
Milan	2834.5-2870.7	2856.6-2869.5	13pr-3ds	29-7pr
Montreal	2.2239-2.2362	2.2362-2.2381	0.75-0.66pr	1.41-1.32pr
New York	1.6051-1.6155	1.6105-1.6113	0.22-0.20pr	0.60-0.57pr
Oslo	12.088-12.247	12.226-12.235	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	9.7720-9.9040	9.9020-9.9085	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	12.708-12.913	12.873-12.898	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	188.08-190.08	189.55-189.77	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	20.400-20.665	20.640-20.665	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.4036-2.4404	2.4319-2.4344	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium = pr. Discount = ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3913-1.3931
Austria	12.83-12.85
Belgium (Com)	37.66-37.67
Canada	1.3882-1.3887
Denmark	6.9474-6.9494
France	6.1463-6.1486
Germany	1.8232-1.8237
Hong Kong	7.7403-7.7413
Ireland	1.4658-1.4678
Italy	1781.00-1782.00
Japan	117.70-117.80
Malaysia	2.7970-2.8020
Netherlands	2.0533-2.0538
Norway	7.5937-7.5987
Portugal	185.00-185.20
Singapore	1.5185-1.5195
Spain	154.16-154.26
Sweden	7.9878-7.9955
Switzerland	1.5107-1.5115

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6102-1.6120
Australia dollar	2.1747-2.1783
Bahrain dinar	0.6010-0.6150
Brazil real*	1.7470-1.7514
China yuan	13.212-13.512
Cyprus pound	0.8505-0.8695
Finland markka	8.6950-8.8360
Greece drachma	454.0-464.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.4541-12.4635
India rupee	56.98-58.28
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4840-0.4950
Malaysia ringgit	4.5004-4.5112
New Zealand dollar	2.4973-2.5008
Pakistan rupee	63.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8025-5.9375
Singapore dollar	2.4433-2.4464
S Africa rand (com)	7.4640-7.6350
U A E dirham	5.8550-5.9910

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	500	Ladbroke	3,000
ASDA Gp	6,500	Land Secs	1,500
Abbey Ntl	3,200	Legal & Gn	1,600
Allnce & Leic	3,600	Lloyds TSB	5,100
Allied Dom	810	LucasVarity	4,500
AB Foods	350	Marks Spr	2,200
BAA	1,700	Mercury Asl	300
BAT Inds	4,100	NatWst Bk	2,300
BG	4,600	Nat Grid	4,300
BOC	1,200	Nat Power	1,700
BP	6,200	Next	848
BSkyB	2,600	Orange	438
BTR	8,200	P & O	1,700
BT	42,700	Pearson	805
Bk of Scot	1,200	PowerGen	3,100
Barclays	3,400	Prudential	2,300
Bass	1,300	RMC	243
Blue Circle	1,700	Railtrack	457
Boots	486	Rank Group	1,900
BAe	722	Reckitt Col	870
BA	3,800	Reed Intl	1,500
British Land	921	Rentokil	5,800
Brit Steel	3,200	Reuters	4,500
Burmah Cstl	222	Rio Tinto	1,200
Cable Wire	2,000	Rolls Royce	1,700
Cadbury	2,500	Royal & Sun	3,400
Carlton Cms	857	Royal Bk Scot	2,400
Centrica	10,000	Safeway	3,100
Cm Union	1,900	Sainsbury	2,400
Dixons	1,900	Schroders	217
EMI	1,400	Scot & New	826
Energy Gp	328	Scot Power	1,200
Enterpr Oil	[illegible]	Svrn Trent	1,200
GKN	1,100	Shell Trans	9,700
GRE	2,100	Siebe	769
GUS	1,800	SmKl Bch	5,400
Gen Acc	1,000	Smiths Inds	459
Gen Elec	3,200	Std Chartd	2,400
Glaxo Well	2,900	TI Gp	615
Granada	1,400	Tate & Lyle	430
Grand Met	1,000	Tesco	2,400
Guinness	1,700	Thames W	590
HSBC	3,000	Tomkins	2,400
Halifax	5,100	Unilever	2,900
Hanson	687	Utd Utilities	1,800
Hays	413	Utd News	567
ICI	2,000	Vodafone	3,800
Imp Tob	619	Whitbread	567
Kingfisher	477	Wolseley	289
LASMO	1,300	Zeneca	1,700

WALL STREET

	Aug 18 midday	Aug 15 close
AMP Inc	49¼	48¾
AMR Corp	103	103¾
AT & T	39¼	38⅞
Abbott Labs	61⅞	60¼
Advanced Micro	37½	37¼
Aetna Life	96	95¼
Ahmanson (HF)	50¼	49¼
Air Prod & Chem	80¼	80⅛
AirTouch Comm	35½	35⅞
Albertson's	37¼	34½
Alcan Aluminium	36¼	36¼
Allied Signal	85¼	86¼
Alum Co of Am	82⅛	81½
Amerada Hess	55	55½
Amer El Power	42½	42⅞
Amer Express	81	80¾
Amer Genl Corp	50¼	49¼
Amer Home Pr	73½	73½
Amer Intl	96⅞	96¼
Amer Stores	29⅞	29⅞
Amer Standard	50	49¾
Ameritech	65¼	65½
Amgen	49½	48¾
Amoco	92	91½
Andrew Corp	29¼	29⅛
Anheuser-Busch	42⅝	42⅛
Apple Computer	23½	23¼
Archer Daniels	20⅞	20⅞
Armco	5⅞	5⅞
Armstrong Wrld	77¼	73½
Asarco	31½	31½
Atl Richfield	72⅞	72½
[illegible] Corp	34½	34½
Auto Data Pro	49¼	45½
Avery Dennison	41⅞	41⅞
Avon Products	64¼	63⅞
Baker Hughes	39⅞	39½
Baltim Gas & El	26⅞	26⅞
Banc One	53¼	52¼
BankAmerica	67⅛	66¼
Bank of NY	46	46¼
Bankers Tr NY	100¼	99¼
Barnett Banks	53½	52⅞
Bausch & Lomb	41½	41⅜
Baxter Intl	52⅛	52⅛
Bectn Dicksn	48	48
Bell Atlantic	75⅞	75¼
BellSouth	44½	45½
Black & Decker	42⅛	42¼
Block (H&R)	38⅛	38⅞
Boeing	55½	55½
Boise Cascade	37⅛	37½
Boston Scien	70⅛	71½
Bristol Myrs Sq	73½	77
Browning Ferris	34⅛	34⅛
Brunswick	30	30½
Burlingtn Nthn	90⅞	90⅞
CMS Energy Corp	35⅛	35⅛
CPC Intl	90½	90⅛
CSX	56½	57⅞
Campbell Soup	47	47¼
Carolina Pwr	34	34½
Case Corp	65½	65⅞
Caterpillar	57⅞	58⅛
Central & SW	20⅛	20⅛
Champion Intl	59⅞	60¼
Chase Manhtn	110⅛	110
Chevron Corp	78½	77⅞
Chrysler	34½	34½
Chubb Corp	65¾	65¼
Cigna Corp	179½	179
Citicorp	133½	133¼
Clorox	131½	132⅛
Coastal Corp	53	52½
Coca Cola	58¼	58½
Coca Cola Ent	29¼	29¼
Colgate Palm	66¼	66¼
Columbia Gas	66½	66¼
ColumbiaHCA	32⅞	32⅞
Compaq Comp	57⅛	57¼
Comp Ass Intl	63½	63½
Conagra	65	65⅛
Cons Edison	31	31
Cons Nat Gas	58½	59
Cooper Inds	54⅛	54⅞
CoreStates	62⅛	62½
Corning Inc	62½	63⅛
C'wide Credit	75⅛	73⅛
Crestar Finl	44½	44½
Crown Cork	50⅛	50½
Dana Corp	49¼	45½
Dayton Hudson	66⅛	66½
Deere	55⅛	55
Delta Air Lines	87½	87⅛
Deluxe Corp	32½	32½
Digital Equip	49¼	49¼
Dillard Dept St	38½	38½
Disney (Walt)	77⅛	76⅛
Dominion Res	36½	36⅞
Donnelley (RR)	36	36½
Dover Corp	69⅞	69¾
Dow Chemical	91½	92
Dow Jones	42½	42⅞
Dresser	38⅛	38
Duke Power	48½	48¼
Dun & Bradstreet	27½	28⅛
Du Pont	62⅛	61⅞
Eastman Chem	58½	58½
Eastman Kodak	63½	63½
Eaton Corp	95½	95⅞
Edison Intl	25	25⅛
Elect Data Sys	37⅞	38
Emerson Elec	55⅞	55½
Engelhard Corp	20	19⅞
Enron Corp	39⅛	39¼
Entergy	24½	24⅞
Ethyl Corp	9	9⅛
Exxon	59½	59
FMC Corp	84	84½
FPL Group	46¼	46½
Federal Express	68½	68⅞
Fifth Third Banc	60½	60⅞
Fleet Finl Grp	64⅞	64⅞
Fluor Corp	56½	56½
Ford Motor	39⅞	39⅞
Fort James	44½	44½
Fortune Brands	35½	35⅛
Franklin Res	77½	77⅞
GTE Corp	46½	46½
Gannett	97	96⅞
Gap Inc Del	42½	42½
Gen Dynamics	81½	82½
Gen Electric	63	62½
Gen Mills	66½	67⅛
Gen Motors	59⅞	59⅞
Gen Reinsurance	193½	193⅞
Gen Signal	45½	45½
Genuine Parts	31⅞	31⅞
Georgia Pac	92½	92⅞
Gillette	87½	88½
Glaxo Welle ADR	38½	38⅛
Goodrich (BF)	44½	44½
Goodyear Tire	62½	62½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	24½	25½
Great Lakes	46	46½
Halliburton	42	42½
Harcourt General	47½	47⅞
Heinz (HJ)	43⅞	43½
Hercules	51½	51⅞
Hershey Foods	53½	53⅞
Hewlett Packard	62½	66⅛
Hilton Hotels	29½	29⅞
Home Depot	47½	47⅞
Homestake Mng	13⅞	14
Honeywell	69⅛	67⅞
Household Intl	116½	117½
Houston Inds	20⅞	20½
Humana	23	23½
ITT Corp	62⅛	62⅞
Ikon Office	25½	25⅞
[illegible]	40⅞	40½
Illinova	22⅞	22⅞
INCO	29½	29½
Ingersoll Rand	62½	62
Inland Steel	20⅛	20½
Intel Corp	90	92½
IBM	100½	99⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	51½	51½
Intl Paper	56½	55½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	56⅞	55⅞
Kellogg	92½	93⅞
Kerr-McGee	59⅞	60½
Kimberly-Clark	50½	50
Kmart	13	13⅛
Knight-Ridder	49⅛	49½
Lilly (Eli)	101⅞	101
Limited Inc	22½	22⅞
Lincoln Nat	67⅞	67⅞
Litton	48½	47⅞
Liz Claiborne	45½	45½
Lockheed Martin	104½	104⅞
Louisiana Pac	22½	22½
MCI Comm	32½	32⅞
Manpower Inc	45½	46½
Marriott Intl	65½	65½
Marsh & McLen	70½	70⅞
Masco Corp	45⅛	45⅞
May Dept St	53⅞	54
Maytag Corp	27⅞	27⅞
McDonalds	50½	50
McGraw Hill	62½	62½
Mead Corp	69⅛	68½
Medtronic	89	89½
Mellon Bk	47½	46⅛
Merck Inc	91½	90⅞
Mercury Fin	2	2
Merrill Lynch	62½	61½
Microsoft	131½	132½
Minnesota Mng	91⅞	91
Mirage Resorts	26½	26⅞
Mobil Corp	72½	72½
Monsanto	44⅛	43⅞
Morgan (JP)	108½	108⅛
Motorola Inc	79½	80
Mylan Labs	19½	19½
Natl Semi	32½	33⅛
Natl Service Ind	44⅛	44½
Navistar Intl	21½	22⅛
NY Times A	45⅞	46
Newmont Mng	41⅞	42
Nike B	58⅛	59½
NL Industries	12½	12½
Nordstrom	60½	60⅞
Norfolk Sthrn	101	99½
Nthn State Pwr	48⅛	48½
Norwest Corp	58⅛	58⅛
Occidental Pet	24½	24½
Ohio Edison	21½	21⅛
Oracle	56½	55½
Oryx Energy Co	24⅛	24⅛
Owens Corning	40⅞	39⅛
PPG Industries	61½	62
PMI Group	57½	57⅞
PNC Bank	42½	43½
PP&L Res	20⅛	20½
Paccar Inc	45½	45½
Pacificorp	20⅞	20⅞
Pac Enterprises	31½	31½
Pall Corp	24½	24⅛
Parker Hannifin	62⅛	61⅞
Peco Energy	22½	22⅛
Penney (JC)	60⅛	61⅞
Pennzoil	76½	76⅛
Pepsico	38⅛	38⅛
Pfizer	51⅞	53⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	34½	34½
Phelps Dodge	80½	80½
Philip Morris	44½	45½
Phillips Pet	46⅛	46½
Pitney Bowes	74⅛	74½
Polaroid	54½	54½
Procter & Gmbl	137⅛	136½
Providian	34⅛	34⅛
Pub Serv E & G	24⅛	24½
Quaker Oats	49½	48½
Ralston Purina	88½	87⅛
Raychem Corp	94⅞	94⅞
Raytheon	54⅞	56
Reebok Intl	47½	48⅛
Reynolds Metals	73½	72⅞
Rockwell Intl	59½	59½
Rohm & Haas	96½	96½
Royal Dutch	50⅞	49⅞
Rubbermaid	25⅛	25½
SBC Comms	55⅞	58½
Safeco Corp	46⅛	47½
St Paul's Cos	74½	74⅞
Sallie Mae	135½	135½
Salomon Inc	61½	61½
Sara Lee Corp	40½	40½
Schering Plough	47⅞	47
Schlumberger	69⅛	69⅞
Seagram	35⅛	35⅛
Sears Roebuck	56⅞	56⅛
Shell Trans	40⅛	38⅞
Sherwin Wllms	29½	30⅛
Silicon Graphics	25½	26⅛
Snap-On-Tools	40½	47½
Southern Co	21½	20½
Southtrust	43½	44
Sprint Corp	46½	46½
Stanley Works	43	43
Sun Company	36½	37⅛
Sun Microsyst	44½	45½
Suntrust	60½	60⅞
Supervalu	39½	39⅞
Synovus Fin	26½	26½
Sysco Corp	34½	34½
TRW Inc	54	54½
TIG Hldgs	31⅞	31½
Tandem Comp	29½	29⅛
Tandy Corp	65½	65½
Temple Inland	66½	66½
Tenet Healthcare	27½	27⅞
Tenneco	49½	49⅛
Texaco	111⅛	110
Texas Inst	119½	118½
Texas Utilities	34½	34⅞
Textron	60⅛	61⅛
Thermo Elect	37½	37⅞
Time Warner	52½	51⅞
Times-Mirror A	50⅛	50½
Timken	34⅛	35½
Torchmark	35½	35½
Toys R Us	33½	33
Transamerica	97½	97⅛
Travelers	66½	66⅛
Tribune	49⅛	49
UST Inc	29⅛	29⅛
US Bancorp	87½	88
UAL	78⅛	77½
US Inds	35½	35⅛
US West Comm	37½	37½
US West Media	20½	20⅛
USAirways Group	30½	30½
USX Marathon	31⅛	31½
Unicom	22⅛	22½
Unilever NV	213⅞	213½
Union Camp	60⅞	60⅞
Union Carbide	52½	52½
Union Pacific	67½	67½
Unisys Corp	10½	10⅞
USFG Corp	22⅞	23
United Tech	80	79⅞
Unocal Corp	36⅞	36⅞
VF Corp	89½	87½
Wal-Mart Stores	35½	35½
Warner-Lambert	128½	128½
Waste Mngmt	32	32½
Wells Fargo	259	259⅛
Westinghouse El	25½	25⅞
Weyerhaeuser	59⅞	60½
Whirlpool	59½	59⅞
Whitman	24½	24½
Winn Dixie	36⅛	35½
Witco Corp	44½	44½
Woolworth	25	25½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	71⅞	72½
Xerox	74½	74½
Xilinx Inc	47⅞	50⅛

Carl Mortished looks into the deep-rooted nagging anxiety about Rentokil Initial

Concern in City over company at crossroads

When Sir Clive Thompson delivers Rentokil Initial's half-year financial results tomorrow, his customary confident swagger may not be so obvious.

Although Britain's largest and, arguably, most successful service company is set to again report earnings growth ahead of his self-imposed target of 20 per cent, Rentokil's star has been tarnished. Its stock market rating has slipped and it is perceived to be at a crossroads.

Bumptious Sir Clive has presided over an astonishing period of growth. Over the past ten years earnings per share have grown an average 24 per cent a year and in April 1996 he led the firm in its biggest adventure, acquiring BET, a rival service group, in a contested £2 billion takeover.

City analysts expect the merged Rentokil Initial to report interim profits of up to £200 million courtesy of BET, enough to satisfy fund managers who backed the bid for BET and, more important, to avoid embarrassment for Sir Clive.

The nagging anxiety about Rentokil is more deep-rooted. Rentokil Initial has traditionally been a growth stock, but its share rating has failed to recover the ground lost earlier this year when the 1996 profits revealed a sharp slowdown at the heart of the company.

Rentokil retains a loyal band of admirers who believe Sir Clive has found a formula capable of delivering spectacular long-term growth, and there is some evidence to support their enthusiasm. From a company that discovered a new rat poison in 1904, Rentokil has made about 90 acquisitions over the past decade — small operations that add market share to its cleaning, textile rental, pest control and tropical plant rental businesses. Low-margin new businesses are given the Rentokil treatment of staff training, discipline and customer service. The result is higher prices and a better return on sales and earnings per share growth. The original business delivers shareholders a spectacular 33p in profit for every pound paid by the customer.

The City harbours doubts. At the time of the bid for BET, analysts fretted that growth in core Rentokil operations was slowing and critics accused Sir Clive of desperation in launching a bid for a group with plant hire and distribution interests. But the company's fans say Rentokil is not investing in sunset industries but buying in growth markets.

Outsourcing basic services is the fashion among companies seeking to focus their investment on core expertise. As firms contract and shed ancillary activities, Rentokil is available to clean offices, change the towels, patrol the premises and remove vermin. Unfortunately, the 1996 profits were not flattering and Rentokil Initial has a tendency to be spare with specific information about its service businesses. The figures tomorrow will not differentiate between the "old Rentokil" operations and the BET businesses.


Thompson: long-term growth

Analysts will continue to fret if they cannot pinpoint which Rentokil businesses are growing and which marking time. The picture is also complicated by hefty provisions taken against the BET assets. In addition to a reorganisation charge of £16 million, Rentokil Initial's accounts show a fair value adjustment of £260 million against the £310 million book value of BET on acquisition.

Andrew Ripper, analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "Over the next two years, they will derive more growth from the BET businesses than from Rentokil." Rentokil's 1996 results showed only 9 per cent growth in profits from the "old" businesses — pest control showed almost nil growth and is expected to remain weak this year, textile rental was doing badly on the Continent and the manned security business is plagued by low margins and competition.

All that will not cause Sir Clive to lose too much sleep because BET brings with it potential for uplift. Margins in the acquired businesses average 8.7 per cent, compared with 22 per cent at Rentokil. Even if the boring Initial cleaning operations fail to generate much organic sales growth, efficiency gains and the shedding of low-priced contracts should enable Rentokil to squeeze more profits from new businesses.

But that brings one back to the main conundrum about this slick but decidedly low-tech company. Rentokil operates in businesses that have few barriers to entry. It has acquired some capital intensive businesses with BET, such as plant hire, an area of greater investment risk in which Rentokil's management skills are as yet untested. Outsourcing is hardly a new concept, but it is the mainstay of growth at a number of go-go companies, including Capita Group, which provides council clerical services.

Large service groups with powerful brands such as Rentokil wield a degree of clout over their customers at present, but there will come a time when big owners and managers such as PPM, the consortium that has acquired the huge DSS property estate, may be able to dictate terms.

Rentokil's success has been due to its ability to achieve dominance in specific areas such as pest control, where provision of a slick service in a market characterised by price inelasticity allows the operator to achieve exceptional margins. However, reliability is not so easy to prove in other service businesses, such as security.

The market for low-tech property-related services is crowded and Rentokil will need to continue to make acquisitions if it is to sustain its target of 20 per cent earnings growth. Mr Ripper said: "I think he will do it this year, but he will find it tough next year. He will have run out of the benefits of merging BET. The share price is saying that the longer-term rate of growth is 16 per cent . . ."

Sir Clive's mission statement has the proviso that the aim is 20 per cent growth "whilst not detracting from long-term growth prospects". So Rentokil will not dash for growth this year at the expense of the future. However, what the market wants to see is from where the long-term growth will come.

Britain needs capacity for success

John Grieve Smith says policy to curb inflation may backfire

Concern about the dangers of the economy "overheating" has focused attention on the strength of demand in relation to industrial capacity. Discussion has concentrated, however, on the short-term problem of regulating demand: almost nothing has been said about the longer-term problem of expanding capacity.

Surprisingly little is known about the actual capacity of particular industries or the economy as a whole, or about the effects of differing rates of capacity utilisation on prices. The main sources of information on capacity utilisation are the CBI and British Chambers of Commerce surveys, both of which suggested that capacity utilisation peaked a year or so ago.

In considering how to avoid overheating it is vital to distinguish between two related dangers. One is that the easing of competitive pressures will lead firms to increase prices and profit margins. The other is that a stronger demand for labour will lead to a wage/price spiral. After nearly two decades of heavy unemployment and a periodically overvalued pound, the economy is in danger of pressing up against capacity limits while there are still significant reserves of labour, albeit there may be shortages of particular skills in particular areas.

There is a pressing need to encourage the expansion of capacity in the widest sense: that it is not simply plant capacity, the dominant factor in industries such as steel or chemicals, but the total managerial and operational strength of the firm.

The danger is that excessively strict policies to curb inflation may have adverse effects on industrial capacity. This, ironically, will make us more susceptible to inflation in the long run in an upturn (as happened in the 1980s) and make it harder to reduce unemployment. Exclusive reliance on monetary policy accentuates this danger, both because high interest rates are likely to affect investment more than consumption, and also because of their effect on the exchange rate. It is not just the present high level of sterling that is so damaging to industry, but the fear that when the pound does come down, a similar devastating rise might easily recur.

Policies for *Equipping Britain for our long-term future* (the title of the Budget statement) must include a strategy for accelerating the growth of industrial capacity. The signals to business decision-makers at the moment say "carry on as before". Most managers today served their formative years when weak demand lead to the emergence of excess capacity, loss of profits, and bankruptcy or redundancy. The careers of the most successful survivors have frequently been based on caution and cost reduction rather than expansion and risk-taking.

The first essential is for the Government to convince industry that the economy will expand more rapidly in future and expansion will not be suddenly curtailed by the need to take restrictive measures to combat inflation, because unemployment is falling. That is where an agreement with the unions on wages has a part to play. Industry also needs to be assured that the exchange rate will be at competitive levels.

High rates are likely to affect investment more than consumption

There is also a need to create financial structures in which risk-taking becomes more acceptable, by making the penalties for any temporary reduction in profits less severe. This is particularly important for smaller firms where their dependence on bank loans, rather than equity finance, puts many out of business in a recession, which they would otherwise be able to weather. Larger firms have better access to equity finance, but tend to suffer from short-term pressures to maintain dividends that reduce the distinction between debt and risk finance. The Government has emphasised the need to encourage investment, but has so far failed to identify the particular problems of encouraging investment in new capacity, which is essential to strengthen the economy and reduce unemployment.

The author is a Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge, and wrote Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed.

King Coal's crown is tarnished as rival fuels gain upper hand

The reign of Richard Budge faces growing difficulties, according to **Mark Court**

Richard Budge took the crown of King Coal at the end of 1994 when his company, RJB Mining, paid £815 million to clinch the majority of English pits sold during coal privatisation. He seized the crown with relish, never missing an opportunity to tell people that he was the saviour of Britain's coal industry.

But the announcement yesterday of another pit closure suggests that his title to the throne is far from secure. The closure of Asfordby in Leicestershire comes just a year after Point of Ayr colliery was shut, and a question mark hangs over several other pits.

Budge's rise to reign over Britain's coalfields is marked by controversy. RJB Mining was an open-cast mining operation when Budge launched his bid for most of the English pits. RJB had been bought for £106 million in 1992 as a buyout from AF Budge, the construction company run by Richard's brother, Tony.

Less than a year later AF Budge crashed with debts of more than £100 million, prompting an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry.

While Richard Budge was bidding for the English pits, the investigation came to a head. Tony, his wife Janet and Michael Yates, the finance director, were disqualified as directors, but the case against Richard, who was also a director of AF Budge, was dropped.


Richard Budge's empire is under threat from the growth of gas-fired power stations and cheap coal imports

Richard Budge had already been nominated preferred bidder for most English pits with a bid of about £900 million. He negotiated the figure down to £815 million and paid £700 million in cash with £115 million on deferred terms. The deal was attacked by the National Audit Office, other bidders having been told there would be no deferred payments.

At first Budge's critics said that he had paid too much for the English pits, but he got off to a flying start. As one mining expert recalls: "He had the most amazing piece of luck. He sold about five million tonnes of coal from stock at the full contract price for which he had paid very little because three nuclear power stations broke down within five months of RJB starting." After returning spectacular profits in the first year, critics argued that Budge had not paid enough for the English pits.

But the big problem that the company faces is the renegotiation of its long-term supply contracts with National Power and PowerGen. Currently these are large, profitable contracts on a take-or-pay basis, but they run out next March when the power generators will seek smaller contracts at lower prices related to the markets.

The generators have told Budge they want coal at 110p a gigajoule, compared with the current 143p a gigajoule. RJB has struggled to bring its costs down since privatisation and is now producing coal at about 117p a gigajoule, which, even without profit, far exceeds the price that the generators are looking for. As a result RJB faces stiff competition from overseas, where coal can be obtained for 110p a gigajoule.

A coal analyst said: "If the market price applies, which is what the generators want, then RJB's profits will disappear.

"Although reports are focusing on cheap coal imports, the fact is that British coal is expensive. Foreign companies are simply providing coal at the world market price."

During the past few months Budge has suggested the opening of new pits and even a move into power generation by building a clean coal power station in an effort to build positive sentiment around his company. But analysts believe that RJB will be forced to close further pits in an effort to supply coal at prices that generators will be prepared to accept. Charles Kernot, analyst at Paribas, the broker, said: "Coal is a declining industry and what RJB needs to do is to recognise it is a declining industry and get as much cash out as possible.

"RJB can pull themselves back to around 10 collieries which they could operate with costs below 115p a gigajoule. There's certainly no way RJB can build a brand new coal mine in this country and make money out of it."

Paribas forecasts full-year pre-tax profits at RJB of £50 million, at the bottom end of expectations, but believes that next month's interims will be strong. Mr Kernot said: "This year will be a very good, very profitable year for RJB. The difficulty is next year when earnings will fall off a cliff."

Environmental pressures are also building up. UK power stations typically burn four parts deep-mined coal to one part open-cast coal. But opposition is growing to the environmental damage done by open-cast mining, and the issue threatens to become as controversial as road building.

The open-cast coal is needed to reduce the effect of the chlorine content of deep mined coal, which would otherwise result in high levels of hydrochloric acid rotting away the inside of the power station.

Stringent regulations on the emissions from power stations also threaten the burning of coal. One mining source said: "The environmental issue is crucial. The combination of very tough sulphur targets and the Government's determination to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent is going to make life very difficult."

Budge's response to the growing environmental pressure has been to link up with National Power in the hope of developing a clean coal plant in the Midlands. But many believe that coal has lost the race against gas. The rapid growth of gas-fired stations, which are clean, efficient and cheap to build, has all but sealed the fate of the coal industry.

Against this backdrop it is unsurprising that RJB's share price is falling. The Asfordby closure will prompt further downgrades.

Mr Kernot said: "I had a target price of 300p a share but I am re-doing my numbers with the Asfordby closure. The reality is that I will be reducing my target price to below 300p."

Even if the coal industry is not doing well, Budge certainly is. He made £2 million during last year's share buyback and pays himself more than £600,000 a year. And his supporters believe that he is a brilliant wheeler dealer who can be expected to pull himself out of yet another scrape.

Hardern target

AS ANOTHER building society vows to spurn the speculators, I wonder what has happened to dear old Michael Hardern, the freelance butler whose tilt at the Nationwide was about as solidly constructed as his straw hat.

Overhearing a conversation between two tattooed gentlemen, who claim to be confidantes of Hardern, it appears that the king of the carpet-baggers is holidaying in Cornwall and planning his next venture. This is to be an autumnal attempt to persuade the Co-operative Wholesale Society that it would be better in the public domain than as a co-operative.

I would not like to suggest this is a triumph of hope over experience, but I have two little words to say to Hardern — Andrew Regan.


Michael Hardern is planning his next venture while on holiday

Change of brew

TALKING ABOUT Cornwall, brewing devotees who find the goings on at Merrydown too tame for them should head to the Redruth Brewery, where the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong is being rerun. The brewery was rescued from receivership a couple of years ago by Dransfield Food and Beverage, a company known to the residents of Kowloon for its fine beers and snacks.

All had been going swimmingly, with Redruth enjoying a resurgence thanks to new brews such as Yixing Chinese Beer, the US ale Indian Head and the intriguingly named Scream'n'Beaver, which is a strong lager aimed at the youth market, apparently. But last week Alex Tse, the Hong Kong-based chief executive, sacked Richard Sommerfeld jnr, the general manager, and Steve Lean, head brewer, resigned in protest.

Tse is keeping mum about the cause of the row, but he is currently trying to find a new boss to run Redruth so that he can return to Hong Kong. "With the dedication of our staff I believe we can capture the immense potential of the beverage consumption market," Tse says. I suppose this is not the time to remind him that Redruth has just launched a real ale called "Cornish Rebellion".

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

● *IT IS not surprising that the doyenne of the bookselling world, WH Smith, is giving a marvellous impression of that farmyard favourite, the headless chicken. This is because it is genuinely headless. Having accepted the job of number three at BT, Bill Cockburn, the chief executive, decided to take the whole of August off on holiday. He will then return refreshed in time to join BT in October, where they are currently performing their own headless chicken act.*

Mull over it

AMONG THE tasks that Barry Gibson needs to perform as the new chief executive of Littlewoods will be to educate the staff on British geography. According to the group's home shopping business — the picturesque port of Oban on the West Coast of Scotland is an island. Angus MacColl, a conductor on ScotRail, ordered a cooker only to be told it could not be delivered as it was not policy to send a Littlewoods van to an "offshore island". After much argy-bargy, the Merseyside group has now admitted that Oban is on the mainland. "It was a postcode error. Apparently Oban has the same code as an offshore island." That will give Gibson something to Mull over.

If only . . .

TO KENSINGTON High Street where tomorrow a Yellow Robin Reliant from the TV programme *Only Fools and Horses* will trundle up to the Magnet showroom with trade unionists leading the strike at the troubled kitchen maker. According to the GMB and the T&G, 350 skilled cabinet makers were fired by Magnet a year ago and the subsequent strike has cost the group £7 million — 100 times what it would have been to settle it. Phil Davies, of the GMB, will then present Magnet management with a trophy showing a cartoon of money being poured down a drain. Its name — the Bob Ayling award for macho management.

● *IN HIS hour of need, NatWest's Derek Wanless has turned to Norman Blackwell, who has been appointed director of group corporate development at the ailing bank. Blackwell was head of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit from February 1995 until May 1997. I hope Wanless has a bit more luck than Blackwell's previous employer.*

JASON NISSÉ

"Up or down, Sir? I wouldn't really like to hazard a guess . . ."

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

For AIB see Govett (John)

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	798.40	849.40	-15.50	2.25
General Inc	661.50	703.80	-12.80	2.25
UK Growth Acc	551.40	586.70	-10.60	2.19
UK Growth Inc	352.50	375.10	-6.80	2.19
Higher Inc Acc #	977.10	1039.50	-12.10	4.55
Higher Inc Inc #	512.50	545.30	-6.40	4.55
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	222.60	235.00	+0.30	5.40
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.09	100.30	+0.10	5.40
Nth America	420.30	447.10	-10.30	
Europe	432.60	460.30	-6.90	
Bnl Exced	110.10	117.20	-1.90	2.32
Bal Fndmntls Acc	134.70	143.40	-1.00	4.28
Bal Fndmntls Inc	88.84	94.52	-0.73	4.28
Global Opps	117.20	124.70	-1.90	
Balanced Acc	72.30	76.81	-0.95	2.06
Balanced Inc	66.73	70.99	-0.87	2.06
Japan Acc	44.41	47.25	-0.58	
Pac Basin Acc	408.90	435.10	-6.60	1.04

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	136.60	144.90	+0.10	6.34
High Inc Equity	208.80	[illegible]	4.70	4.34
Worldwide Bond	268.70	285.00†	-0.80	3.90
American Growth	505.70	539.80	-16.20	0.31
Asian Pacific	[illegible]	364.70	-15.50	0.38
Assets & Earnings	325.60	348.20	-7.60	2.69
Euro Capital Acc	229.90	245.70	-8.30	0.81
Extra Inc	43.22	45.98†	-0.48	6.56
General	298.00	317.00†	-7.00	2.90
Global Opps	82.87	88.16	-2.73	0.45
Japan	103.10	[illegible]	-1.30	
Managed Inc	51.11	54.37†	-0.66	4.14
Mastertrust	190.20	203.40	-4.30	1.09
US Emerging Cos	209.10	223.60	-4.50	
Ethical	[illegible]	91.64	-1.12	2.00
[illegible]	154.30	164.20	-4.20	0.53
Worldwide & Growth	77.06	81.98†	-1.66	4.10
Global Gwth & Sec	77.89	82.97	+0.22	2.43
Latin America	99.73	106.10	-2.80	0.37
Capital Reserve	149.90	150.00		4.66

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8500

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
N&P UK Growth	106.70	113.50†	-1.90	2.07
Equity Income #	146.60	155.90	-8.60	4.24
[illegible]	281.10	299.00†	-10.40	5.08
Smaller Cos	104.40	111.00	-0.80	1.74
International	130.70	139.00	-2.20	1.34

ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	74.07	78.67	-2.71	
Emerging Mkts	81.10	84.46†	-1.83	0.04
European	169.19	175.93	-2.43	
Extra Income #	54.59	57.44	-0.93	5.02
Far East Emg Eon	132.22	139.20†	-3.00	0.46
Fixed Interest #	26.44	27.49†	-0.01	6.54
Fixed Inc Tst #	165.05	173.27†	-1.99	9.45
Japan	188.64	195.98†	-2.08	
Latin American	82.42	86.60†	-2.42	
Pacific	80.97	84.99	-1.70	0.12
Property	83.50	[illegible]	-0.35	1.47
UK Emerging Cos	67.76	73.22†	-0.16	0.98
UK Growth	83.10	[illegible]	-1.28	1.18
[illegible]	91.39	96.17	-1.53	2.40

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	67.28	71.38	-1.90	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	96.09	102.22	-2.47	
Dragon Growth	73.34	78.43	-1.24	0.40
Equity High Inc	107.[illegible]	113.31	-1.76	3.43
-do- Accum	158.62	167.[illegible]	-2.61	3.43
Extra Income Inc	27.76	29.22	-0.02	6.68
Extra Income Acc	31.85	33.52	-0.02	6.68
European Gwth	79.43	[illegible]	-1.05	0.14
Evergreen	34.93	37.35	-0.44	
General Equity	124.09	130.97	-2.15	2.49
Japan Growth	44.66	47.51	-0.82	
Pedigree Gwth	73.66	77.94	-1.31	1.96
Perf Sta Cos Inc	39.81	42.13	-0.18	1.37
-do- Accum	42.64	45.12	-0.19	1.37
Retirement Inc #	31.76	33.79	-0.41	[illegible]
Special Sits	52.15	56.07	-0.82	2.87
UK & Overseas	70.55	74.66	-1.19	0.48

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 896 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	78.26	[illegible]	-1.03	3.79
Capital	98.11	100.11†	-1.68	2.20
High Income	54.19	56.44†	+0.04	6.56
Top 50	67.97	70.80†	-1.48	2.27

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	212.65	221.53	-2.49	4.25
Long Gilt	47.33	49.28†	+0.16	5.68
Monthly Inc Plus	54.30	56.57	+0.07	7.92
Preference Share	93.28	95.51†	+0.22	7.02
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	157.14	163.70†	-1.47	5.47
Managed Fund	85.90	89.49	-1.39	2.53
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.25	53.37	-0.41	1.59
-do- Accum	60.37	62.83	-0.49	1.59
UK & General	116.03	120.88	-2.11	2.32
-do- Accum	153.0[illegible]	160.25	-2.80	2.32
UK Growth	230.02	239.63	-3.87	1.84
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	254.22	264.84	-4.73	0.51
Far Eastern Gth	138.85	144.65	-3.02	0.19
Global Bond	74.39	77.50	-0.12	6.63
Japan Growth	111.82	116.28	-1.28	
North Amer Gth	296.31	308.69	-9.25	
Oriental Growth	88.36	92.05	-1.31	0.85
Worldwide Growth	83.07	86.54	-1.09	0.30
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.08	93.08	+0.04	6.02
Homemaker Fund	102.18	108.71	-2.51	1.99
Quilter Fund	173.81	185.01†	-3.62	1.71

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Consistent UT	38.44	42.17†		2.99

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growth	194.70	207.10	-1.50	1.07
Income	80.09	85.05†	-0.88	4.16
European	90.39	96.16	-1.20	0.11
Recovery	183.10	194.80	-2.30	2.21

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bridge Income	360.40	380.34	-2.84	4.32
Edit Growth	126.45	133.48		1.12
Inc & Growth	60.94	63.26†	-0.86	3.61

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 364 842

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	75.62	80.68		3.10

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4848

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	96.94	102.60	-2.10	3.16
European	127.60	135.20	-2.80	0.36
Income #	98.90	101.90†	-2.40	3.89
Nth American	121.80	129.40	-3.70	0.01
Far East	200.10	212.40	-4.80	0.19
Japan	65.65	69.66	-1.10	
Emerging Mkts	106.90	113.30	-3.40	0.60
Intl Growth	154.60	164.20	-3.07	0.34

MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Select Portfolio	115.90	123.30	-2.10	

MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

Recovery from early losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONICS: ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

FOOD RETAILERS, FOOD

GAS DISTRIBUTION

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 10% 5%

Source FT Information

Notes

Price at suspension. Ex dividend. Ex scrip. Ex rights. Ex all. Ex capital distribution. Figures or report awaited. No meaningful data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

Chancery Division — Law Report August 19 1997 — Court of Appeal

Tax avoidance transfers fail in aim

McNiven (Inspector of Taxes) v Westmoreland Investments Ltd

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment July 24]

Pre-ordained circular transfers of money between an investment company and a pension scheme that owned the company, by way of loans and replacement loans that were made for no commercial purpose apart from the avoidance of liability to tax fell within the anti-avoidance principles laid down by the House of Lords in *Ramsay (W. T.) Ltd v IRC* ([1982] AC 300).

The payments by the investment company to the pension scheme were not payments of interest for the purposes of section 338 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (allowance of charges on income) and were thus not available for set-off against the company's profits.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal by the Crown from the determination of the special commissioners that had allowed an appeal by Westmoreland Investments Ltd against the refusal of its tax inspector to allow deductions in respect of payments of interest in computing its total profits for accounting periods from 1987 to 1990.

The shares in the company were held by the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme, an exempt approved scheme for tax purposes. In the 1970s the company had suffered large losses and in 1980 a decision was taken to wind down its activities and many of its properties were sold.

During the 1980s loans were made by the scheme to the company, on which arrears of interest of some £42 million accrued. In 1988 the scheme lent about £20 million to the company some of which was repaid to the scheme as interest.

By 1989 the company held no properties but in March 1990 purchased one for £1.3 million. In October 1989 and January 1990 it borrowed further amounts of £70 million and £34 million from the scheme, much of which was used to pay the balance of the arrears of accrued interest. In December 1990 the company was sold.

Corporation tax assessments were made against the company for periods from 1987 and 1992 on the basis that the payments of interest made by the company were not available for set-off.

Section 338 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(1) ... in computing the corporation tax chargeable for any accounting period of a company any charges on income paid by the company in the accounting period, so far as paid out of the company's profits brought into charge to corporation tax, shall be allowed as deductions against the total profits..."

By section 338(3)(a) "charges on income" included payments of yearly interest.

Mr Christopher McCall, QC, for the Crown; Mr David Milne, QC and Mr Adrian Shipwright for the company.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that an initial point taken by the Crown was that the company during 1989 and 1990 was not an investment company, having disposed of its property investments and retained nothing except a small amount of investments and money on deposit.

The special commissioners rejected that submission holding that the company never fell out of the section 130 definition of "investment company".

They were correct, being entitled to look at the activities of the company over a longer period than the three years under review and to conclude that there had been no definite change in the type of its business.

Next, the Crown relied on the anti-avoidance cases beginning with *Ramsay* and leading most recently to *IRC v McGuckian* (*The Times* June 20, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 991).

Mr McCall sought to apply that approach to the construction of the word "payment" in section 338(3)(a) of the Act, with reference to what were asserted to be payments of interest by the company. He said there were no such payments within the meaning of the Act since the purported payments were effected by an artificial circulation of money designed purely for the purposes of tax advantage.

Mr McCall was clearly right. The case was a relatively straightforward application of the *Ramsay* principle. The arrangements whereby the loans made in the early 1980s were replaced by new loans were a pre-ordained series of transactions. They did have real business consequences, in that the new loans were on different terms as to repayment from the old loans.

But what mattered was that the arrangements for transfer of funds from the scheme to the company and back again to the scheme were steps inserted for no commercial purposes apart from the avoidance of liability to tax, that was the conversion of a notional interest obligation, which had no tax significance, into one which could be used to reduce future tax liabilities. Those circular transactions had therefore to be disregarded.

The result of that process was, that although the terms of the loans had changed, the payments were to be treated for tax purposes as never having happened.

Mr Milne, relying on *Cairns v MacDiarmid* ([1982] 56 TC 566), *Customs and Excise Commissioners v Faith Construction Ltd* ([1990] 1 QB 905), *Ensign Tankers (Leasing) Ltd v Stokes* ([1992] 1 AC 655) and *Pigott v Staines Investments Ltd* ([1995] STC 114) argued that the Crown was wrong to focus on the payment without regard to the underlying obligation. He said that where a company made a payment to discharge a debt which it undoubtedly owed, it was impossible to say that the payment had no business purpose.

Finally, Mr Milne said, that if one had regard, as Lord Steyn suggested in *McGuckian*, to ordinary principles of purposive construction, the Crown's interpretation read far more into the word "payment" than the draftsman intended.

The commissioners rejected the Crown's argument based on *Ramsay*, holding that all the loans were real loans used by the company for real purposes and that there was a "payment" of interest in the ordinary sense of the word.

However, the commissioners failed to address the critical issue, namely whether the circular payments were inserted in the arrangement for any other reason than tax.

Even if one treated the arrangement as a restructuring of the loans, it did not require money to be transferred from one account to the other and back again. Nor did the finding that those payments were "real", whatever that meant, affect the matter.

The payments of interest in 1988 to 1990 which were made wholly out of money borrowed from the scheme, were not payments of interest for the purposes of section 338 and the commissioners were wrong to allow them as charges on income.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

Bench should show costs bill to other side

Hutber v Gabriele

Before Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Gage

[Judgment July 3]

In normal circumstances a magistrate making an order for costs should show the bill of costs to the other party.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Mr Carl Hutber against a decision of Miss Audrey Jennings, West London stipendiary magistrate, on October 15 and November 6, 1996 dismissing his summons against Mr Charles Gabriele for common assault and making an order for costs against him.

Mr Dominic Bell for Mr Hutber; Miss Miranda Moore for Mr Gabriele.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said after the magistrate dismissed the summons she announced she would make an order for costs against the appellant. The respondent handed the magistrate a computer printout sheet of his solicitor's costs. The magistrate did not show the printout to the appellant who did not request sight of it.

The printout showed solicitor's costs of £23,000. The magistrate decided to quantify costs immediately as there was no provision to have costs taxed under section 19 of the Prosecution of Offenders Act 1985.

The magistrate heard the appellant's objections to any award of costs but made an order of costs of £10,000.

The appellant submitted that he should have been given an opportunity to examine and comment on the printout. The respondent submitted that he had had the opportunity to request sight of it but had not availed himself of the opportunity.

The appellant referred to part VII of *Practice Note* ([1991] 2 All ER 934) and paragraph 3 of Costs in Criminal Cases (General) Regulations (SI 1986 No 1335) which stated, inter alia, that magistrates must hear representations from the parties prior to making an order for costs.

However, the fact of the matter was the appellant had not asked to see the computer printout. In the normal course of events a magistrate should of his or her own motion take steps to show a bill of costs to the other side.

However, that did not take away the responsibility of counsel to request sight of a bill of costs if the magistrate did not ask whether they wished to see it.

Having considered al the circumstances, his Lordship held the costs order was reasonable.

Lord Justice Henry agreed.

Solicitors: Meaby & Co, Camberwell; Herbert Smith.

Limit to security for costs orders

Abraham and Another v Thompson and Others

Before Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment July 24]

The court had no inherent jurisdiction to order a plaintiff to give security for costs outside the complete regime provided in Order 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and section 726 of the Companies Act 1985 in respect of limited companies unless a situation amounting to an abuse of process existed.

The right of a plaintiff to bring a properly pleaded and constituted action in good faith took precedence over the interest of a defendant who might be unable to recover costs against an impecunious plaintiff. It was preferable that a successful defendant should suffer the injustice of irrecoverable costs than that a plaintiff with a genuine claim should be prevented from pursuing it.

Where a defendant suspected that a plaintiff was being funded by a third party and that any costs order made against the plaintiff at trial might be difficult to enforce, the proper course was to allow the action to proceed to trial then if the need arose, to make an application under section 51(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 for the third party to pay the defendant's costs.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs against an order of Mr Justice Lloyd (*The Times* May 15, 1997) that the first plaintiff, Roger Adrian Abraham, disclose to the fifth and sixth defendants, Domingos Antonio Martins Da Silva and Jose Humberto Mendoza De Sousa, whether and if so what third parties were funding his costs of the action.

Mr Stanley Burnton, QC and Mr Kenneth MacLean for the appellant; Mr Michael Bloch and Miss Camilla Bingham for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER reviewed the authorities and said that the stay was sought on the basis of the dicta of Lord Justice Kennedy in *Condliffe v Hislop* ([1996] 1 WLR 753) that if the circumstance suggested that if the litigating party were to lose, an order for costs would be difficult to enforce against the maintainer then a stay could be imposed. His Lordship disagreed with that observation.

The starting point for cases where a stay was sought in circumstances not provided for by statute or the Rules of the Supreme Court should be the fundamental principle that an individual, who was not under a disability, a bankrupt or a vexatious litigant, was entitled to untrammelled access to a court of first instance in respect of a bona fide claim based on a properly pleaded cause of action, subject only to the sanction that he was in peril of an adverse costs order if unsuccessful, in respect of which the opposing party might resort to execution and/or bankruptcy if such order were not complied with.

That principle was subject to the further proviso that, if the court were satisfied that the action was not properly constituted or pleaded, or was not brought bona fide in the sense of being vexatious oppressive or otherwise an abuse of process then the court might dismiss the action or impose a stay whether under the specific provisions of the Rules of the Supreme Court or the inherent jurisdiction of the court.

Imposition of a requirement that security for costs be provided subject to the sanction of a stay was a plain fetter upon the exercise of such right of access. That was a principle underlying and recognised by Order 23 which excluded from its regime for security any individual not within the categories specifically provided for.

In those circumstances, when the defendant to a properly constituted and pleaded action brought bona fide, applied for a stay unless security for his costs was provided, for the court to grant a stay under its inherent jurisdiction was in principle to act in opposition, rather than as a supplement, to the provisions and underlying policy of the rules.

There were two conflicting considerations involved in such a case. One was the right of an individual plaintiff freely to pursue a bona fide action lawfully brought. The other was the interest which the defendant had in being protected as to his costs if he were successful.

The former had hitherto been rightly recognised as paramount, subject to such protection from its consequences as provided by (a) the legislature or rule-making authority to the defendant by way of enforcement or provision for security and (b) the court's inherent jurisdiction to prevent abuse of its process. In this case the defendant sought to achieve under (b) a wider basis of protection than it had hitherto been prepared to grant.

Any such extension should be by an addition to the rules, not in the guise of a condition attached to an application for a stay where no abuse of process was alleged to be demonstrated.

The jurisdiction to grant a stay in advance of a determination under section 51(1) of the 1981 Act should be limited to cases where it could clearly be demonstrated that a situation amounting to abuse of process existed.

Lord Justice Millett delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; D W Freeman.

Reasons for planning consent not required

Regina v Aylesbury Vale District Council and Another, Ex parte Chaplin and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment July 31]

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 did not impose any general duty on a local planning authority to give reasons for granting an application for planning permission and it made no difference that an identical application had been refused by it earlier in the year.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments when dismissing an appeal by Mr John Chaplin and seven other applicants from the dismissal by Mr Justice Keene on July 5, 1996, of their application for judicial review of the decision of Aylesbury Vale District Council on September 5, 1995, to grant planning permission to Mr Harold Price for the erection of two houses at Barracks Farm, Nash, Buckinghamshire.

Mr Rabinder Singh and Miss Karen Steyn for the applicants; Miss Nathalie Lieven for the district council; Mr Price did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the underlying planning issue had been whether the site was or was not within the existing built-up area of Nash. On January 5, 1995, the planning committee had rejected a recommendation by the planning officer and refused permission.

An appeal was lodged against that refusal but before it was heard the planning department submitted a further report to the committee who, after a site visit and a further application in respect of the site, on September 5 granted permission, subject to conditions.

The applicants' submissions had to be considered in the context of a statutory framework under which an applicant for planning permission had a statutory right of appeal against the refusal to grant permission: see section 78 of the 1990 Act.

There was no equivalent statutory right in a person aggrieved by the grant of a planning permission to appeal against the grant.

Further, a local planning authority was required to give reasons for refusing an application or imposing conditions. There was no equivalent statutory duty to give reasons for a grant of permission.

Mr Singh submitted that there was a duty to give reasons for the grant of permission when, earlier, an identical application had been refused. It was, he said, important that those concerned should know the reason for the change of mind.

He further submitted that it was important for public confidence. The obligation to give reasons focused the minds of the decision-makers. There was, he said, a developing common law duty to give reasons for administrative decisions.

He relied on the need for consistency in administrative decisions. It was unlawful, he said, to make apparently inconsistent decisions without giving a good explanation.

In the present statutory context the existence of a general duty to give reasons for the grant of planning permission could not be found. Such an obligation was conspicuously absent from the statute.

That contrasted with the obligation on a planning inspector to make a statement of reasons for a decision following a planning appeal: paragraph 8 of Schedule 6 to the 1990 Act. But that obligation should not, by analogy, be extended to cover the situation where no duty was imposed in the statute.

There remained the question whether in this particular case the later decision was unlawful in the absence of an explanation for the decision being different from that reached in January.

It was to be accepted that there was a possibility that there could be a situation in which an obligation to give reasons for a grant of permission arose. But the present decision could not be impugned for lack of reasons.

Although the answer might not have been easy, the question posed for the consideration of the committee was clear. There had been a single issue and its planning advisers had been consistent in making a judgment in favour of the grant of permission.

There was no evidence of any lack of good faith on the part of the members or of their taking irrelevant considerations into account.

There was a good and obvious reason for the second decision and no obligation to spell it out arose by reason of the previous refusal.

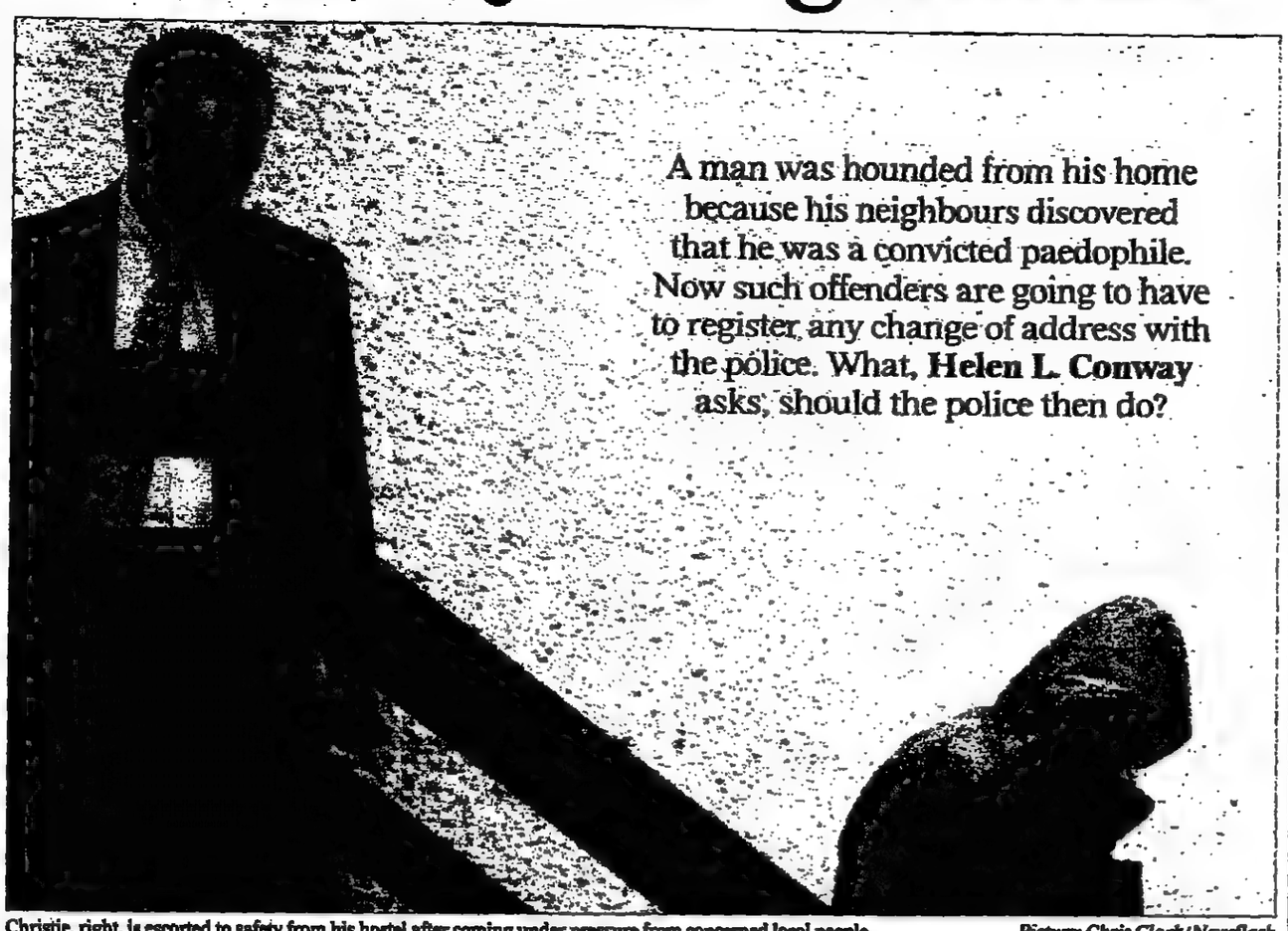
Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Kingsford Stacey; Mrs Joanna E. Swift, Aylesbury.

LAW

● DEFAMATION BY E-MAIL 32
● LET'S TANGO 32

Trial by neighbour



A man was hounded from his home because his neighbours discovered that he was a convicted paedophile. Now such offenders are going to have to register any change of address with the police. What, **Helen L. Conway** asks, should the police then do?

Christie, right, is escorted to safety from his hostel after coming under pressure from concerned local people *Picture: Chris Clark/Newsflash*

Calls are increasingly being made for the public to be given more information about the whereabouts of paedophiles. Home Office statistics published in June indicate that there are now 110,000 convicted child molesters in England and Wales. The new Sex Offenders Act, to come into force on September 1, will require such offenders to register any change of address with the police. Should that information be passed on?

Recently, two paedophiles brought a case against North Wales Police, claiming that the disclosure of their addresses was an infringement of their privacy. Despite the paedophiles' having been driven out of several homes since their release from prison, the Lord Chief Justice confirmed that the police action had been lawful.

New Home Office guidelines confirm, however, that the police are not required to warn people of the presence of known sex offenders: it is a matter for their discretion. Disclosure should be "exceptions to general policy of confidentiality".

A balancing act must be performed in each case. Does the need to protect innocent children from a genre of offenders with a notoriously high recidivism rate justify release of personal information about those criminals? It may be that, on balance, the public's safety outweighs the civil rights of individuals who have caused harm in the past. Still, one question remains: what good will disclosure do?

Certainly, it may equip parents to be vigilant with their children. But is that really an addition to the duties of responsible parents who, sadly, already need to be aware of the potential risk from as yet undetected paedophiles? So what else can a community do with the information?

A mother connected with a community group recently applied for a prohibited steps order to banish a paedophile from the Huyton area near Liverpool. Reporting restrictions were placed on the outcome of that case, and there are no other reported cases on the issue. The theoretical power to make such an order does, however, exist.

In the recent case of *Burris v Azadani*, it was accepted that the courts have powers to make injunctive orders with an exclusion-zone clause. In that case, a woman and her child were harassed by a man whose advances she had rejected. The court ordered that he should not come within 250 yards of her house.

Both the High Court and the lower county courts have an inherent jurisdiction to protect children from harm irrespective of the proceedings in which that need arose. A caveat must be added — at least an arguable claim for relief other than an injunction must exist before the inherent jurisdiction can be used.

If an offender specifically threatens to commit a further unlawful act such as assaulting a child, then a tort, or a civil wrong, is committed at that point. That alone would enable a claim for damages to be brought if some harm were caused; general distress and fear would suffice.

Indefinite sentences for child abuse may be the solution

An injunction can, where appropriate, be granted before a tort is committed. Because parental responsibility gives consequential rights and duties over a child, injunctions may prevent interference with the exercise of those duties. Applications under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 for contact, residence or prohibited-steps orders may thus be the "door" to an injunction.

Whatever the action, the conditions for an injunction must be satisfied. Where there is a clear connection between abuser and child, remedies — either public or private — under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996 (to be implemented in October) would be more easily available. If child and respondent are not "associated persons", the facts of the case would have to show a sufficient link to persuade the court to exercise its powers. In *Burris v Azadani*, the Master of the Rolls stated that: "[the defendant's liberty] must be respected up to the point at which it infringes or threatens to infringe the rights of the plaintiff." A general threat to a community as a whole would probably not suffice. Other solutions are similarly limited. The Mental Health Act does not allow for paedophiles to be held in secure hospitals "by reason only of sexual deviancy". Nor do probation or police have powers to tag or supervise closely many offenders.

So one must wonder what the release of specific information on offenders can achieve. Advocates of information provision "in the public interest" must surely assume the public will use that information responsibly. Sadly, incidents such as the hounding of Alan Christie from a hostel in Stirling earlier this year show that lynch-mob mentalities tend to prevail.

Campaigns to protect children in one area push paedophiles on elsewhere, simply moving not removing the risk. Some are concerned that this also removes paedophiles from sources of informal support and supervision, thus increasing the risk of reoffending. Eddie O'Hara, MP for Knowsley South, has called for indefinite sentences for offences relating to child abuse. This may be the only solution. If so, it may stem as much from society's inability to handle offenders in the community as to the offender's predilections.

● *The author is a solicitor practising family law with Mace & Jones in Huyton, Merseyside.*

Bid the barbarians goodbye — mediate

The Government is pausing for breath before implementing Lord Woolf's reforms of civil justice. The former Treasury mandarin, Sir Peter Middleton, is reviewing Woolf and is due to report to the Lord Chancellor by the end of next month.

The review is a fresh chance for those who wish to see more pressure put on lawyers to use alternative methods of resolving disputes (ADR). Draft rules of court, due before the general election, had been expected to sidestep one of the most controversial recommendations made by Lord Woolf in his July 1996 report — costs penalties for those who "refuse unreasonably a proposal by the court that ADR should be attempted or [who] act uncooperatively in the course of ADR".

The doubters argue that there will be problems of definition and of evidence if a litigant tries to establish such behaviour by an opponent.

Costs rules tend to be an arcane specialism. But this debate is of real importance. Is ADR doomed forever to stand at the door of the courts and wait? Or will the delay occasioned by the Middleton review actually further Lord Woolf's aim? For years, mediation has been the coming conqueror; it would, it was believed, sweep away barbarian litigators and usher in more civilised ways.

Although a few thousand cases have been mediated by the two main ADR groups since 1990, both claiming success rates of more than 90 per cent, they represent a tiny percentage of total litigation.

Given that mediation is consensual and an alternative to traditional court-based methods, it is ironic that the chances of increased take-up probably hang upon "official" recognition, particularly by the courts, and an element of coercion. This was also the case in other jurisdictions. In both Australia and the United States, litigants' and lawyers' experience of mediation has been increased by "settlement weeks", in which judges and senior lawyers have acted as mediators to clear backlogs of court cases.

Australian and American lawyers are far more likely to have had experience of ADR than their British counterparts. What are the obstacles to the wider take-up here? In 1994, the Bristol Law Society set up a mediation scheme, with services provided by the two big independent suppliers, CEDR and the ADR group. Because the Court Service and Legal Aid Board declined to join the project, mediation could be offered outside the courts only for cases in which neither side was receiving legal aid. Crippled from the start, it is not surprising that the scheme received only 24 referrals by the end of its first year, and only two were by then in mediation.

But lack of official involvement was not the only reason for the low take-up. Solicitors proved reluctant to make referrals, often believing that their cases were not suitable for mediation. From personal experience, I understand this. Although I am in a firm that is a member of the ADR group, with promotional literature in our waiting room, mediated solutions do not automatically suggest themselves when litigating disputes, and clients do not often ask for them.

Two other reasons are sometimes suggested. Lawyers, allegedly, will not recommend mediation because they may lose fees. Moreover, to indicate that one is willing to go to mediation may be taken as a sign of weakness. Research on the Bristol scheme found nobody admitting either to be a factor, but Lord Bingham of Cornhill has said that he believes the second may come into play.

The paucity of research does not help those who are committed to promoting the use of ADR. In America there is now plenty of material available, while of the three schemes operating in courts in London, only one is now the subject of research.

We need to know whether ADR is more likely to catch on in focused areas. And would the availability of legal aid make a difference to take-up? While there has been a fairly low take-up of a general pilot scheme at the Central London County Court, the other two current court-based schemes are in specialist areas. There is a scheme in the Patents County Court and practitioners in the Commercial Court found themselves obliged to confront ADR by a practice direction issued in June 1996. ADR orders are now apparently being made in about 30 per cent of cases. The procedures adopted in the Commercial Court were recommended by a working party of court users — no doubt an additional reason for their acceptability.

In another well-defined field, family cases, Parliament has given the Legal Aid Board authority to fund mediations. A pilot scheme, starting later this year, will be properly researched. Similar comprehensive research is needed in specialist areas of civil litigation.

We need to understand better the obstacles to a greater use of ADR. If the present election-caused delay to the implementation of Woolf results in research designed to establish how costs incentives and penalties might increase the use of ADR, without infringing the access of individuals to the courts, it will have been worth it.

● *The author is head of professional services at Irwin Mitchell and a consultant to the University of Sheffield's Department of Law.*

ANDREW LOCKLEY

Not all practitioners are fat cats. **Patrick Stevens** defends slimline moggies

Pity the legal aid lawyer

THE GRIM realities of legal aid work have recently been scrutinised by the Chancery Division judges. Their lordships are more used to big commercial disputes between rich litigants. Therein lies the problem: the judges suspect that some of the legally aided cases are largely spurious and have written to the Lord Chancellor about it.

If the judges had spent a little time in the county court, all this would not have come as such a shock, because a legally aided case is conducted entirely differently from a privately paying one.

Matrimonial work is the obvious example. A typical scenario is that of a husband and wife in their forties with grown-up children. She earns £9,000 a year; he is self-employed and earns £15,000. They were living in a council house but he has moved out to live with another woman. The only assets are joint savings of £12,000, which the man suggests be split equally.

The objective observer might consider this a sensible offer. But the objective observer would quickly go bankrupt as a legal aid lawyer. The first stage is to get legal aid for the wife. This is done by laying claim to all the savings. They are then said to be in dispute and not taken into account for assessment purposes. She is within the income limits and legal aid is granted, subject to her paying a contribution.

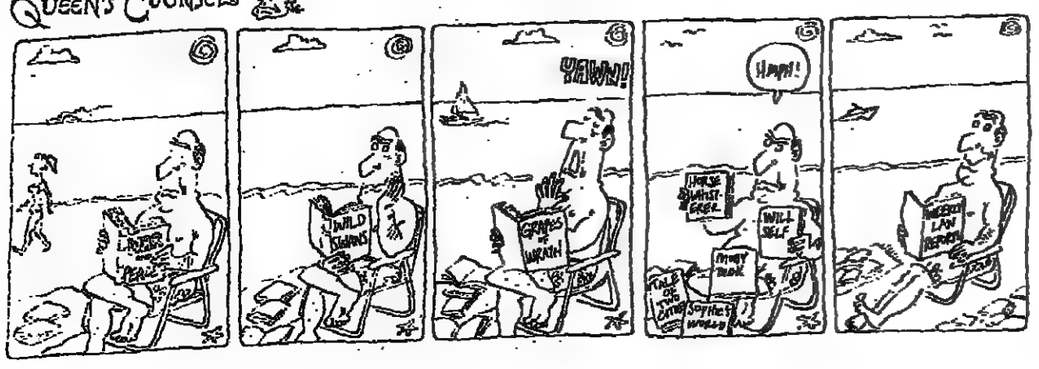
The fundamental difference between private and legal aid work now becomes apparent. The husband is having to pay privately and wants to get matters settled as quickly as possible. The legal aid solicitor is being paid a low hourly rate on matrimonial work and has to work as many hours as possible to stay in business. He is not a fat cat lawyer but a thin and very streetwise moggy.

The first step is to demand that the husband guarantees he will not dispose of his car, worth £3,000. He does not respond. The wife's legal aid is extended for her to get an *ex-parte* injunction to restrain him from selling the car. The husband is becoming angry. He threatens to thump his wife if she does not leave him alone, so she gets an emergency injunction to restrain him. This is also obtained *ex parte* and, to avoid the cost of a contested hearing, the husband agrees later to give an undertaking to the court. With a plethora of faxes and affidavits, the slick legal aid practitioner will already have run up a bill of £1,000.

The best tactic is to claim that the husband is concealing assets, working on the side and that his accounts are untrue. This allegation is used to justify picking through every detail of the husband's finances. Any discrepancies will be seized on with glee and used to fuel further investigations, all of which involve letters, faxes, questionnaires, analysis of accounts and bank statements, and endless hours of chargeable work.

If the Legal Aid Board queries the amount of work being done for so little potential benefit, the opinion of counsel, dependent on the solicitor for work, is sought. But the board rarely interferes: this is how the work is done and it knows no different. Of course, only a lunatic would fund such nonsense privately, but fortunately for those employed, common sense is rarely seen in matrimonial legal aid work.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL STEUART & FRANCIS



Be careful what you write on an electronic message system, says **David Engel**. A libel lawyer may see it

Bad news travels fast out in cyberspace

What is believed to be the biggest action in the UK arising out of *defamation by e-mail* was settled last month, when Norwich Union publicly apologised in the High Court to a rival *private health insurer*, Western Provident Association, and agreed to pay Western Provident £450,000 in damages and costs.

The case began when it was discovered that Norwich Union was circulating damaging and untrue rumours on its internal electronic-message system to the effect that Western Provident was in financial difficulties. Western Provident sued for libel and slander.

The ephemeral nature of e-mail *messages and the threat of the* delete button created an obvious evidential problem for Western Provident. Its lawyers therefore decided to *take the relatively unusual step of asking the court*, before service of the writ, for an order that the offending e-mails should be preserved and hard copies handed over. *James Price, QC, argued that* the evanescent nature of e-mail communication merited such a radical step. The court agreed. In a *novel development, Mr Justice* Mance made what is believed to be the first such order. Norwich Union was required to preserve all the relevant e-mail messages and to *deliver hard copies to Western* Provident's solicitors.

One lesson to be drawn from the case is that the English courts *recognise the unique potential for* damage of defamation by e-mail, and are willing to sanction draconian measures where appropriate.

The risks for a company with large numbers of employees who are hooked up to the Internet or to an in-house e-mail system are plain. The e-mail provides employees with a *dangerously spontaneous* means of communication. Psychologically, it seems, most people regard an e-mail message as more *akin to the spoken than the written* word. They tend to give rather less thought to the content of e-mail than they might to a more formal *typed memorandum or letter.*

On an internal system, with the electronic wizardry providing automatic forwarding and copying, a *message or announcement* can reach hundreds of employees in an instant. And, as the Western Provident case shows, the courts are then willing to step in to preserve the evidence.

An employer may be able to escape vicarious liability for the actions of its staff by, for example, *demonstrating that the employee* was acting outside the scope of his employment in putting a libellous e-mail on the system. But that does *not get the employer off the hook* under defamation law, because the "publisher", as well as the author, is liable. It would be difficult for a company that provided its employees with computers and a link to the Net to argue that it was not a "publisher".

Relief may be at hand for *companies in such a position under* the new Defamation Act 1996, which provides a defence of innocent dissemination. However, the relevant section of the Act *is* not clearly drafted. Most practitioners are still scratching their heads over its legal effect, which has not yet been tested in court.

Moreover, liability does not stop at Calais. The aggrieved party may sue in any jurisdiction where the libel is "published", which is likely to mean any country from which the material may be accessed (regardless of where it was initially put on the Net). Few companies would, for example, relish the *prospect of being sued in the* United States, with its dollar-*hungry juries.*

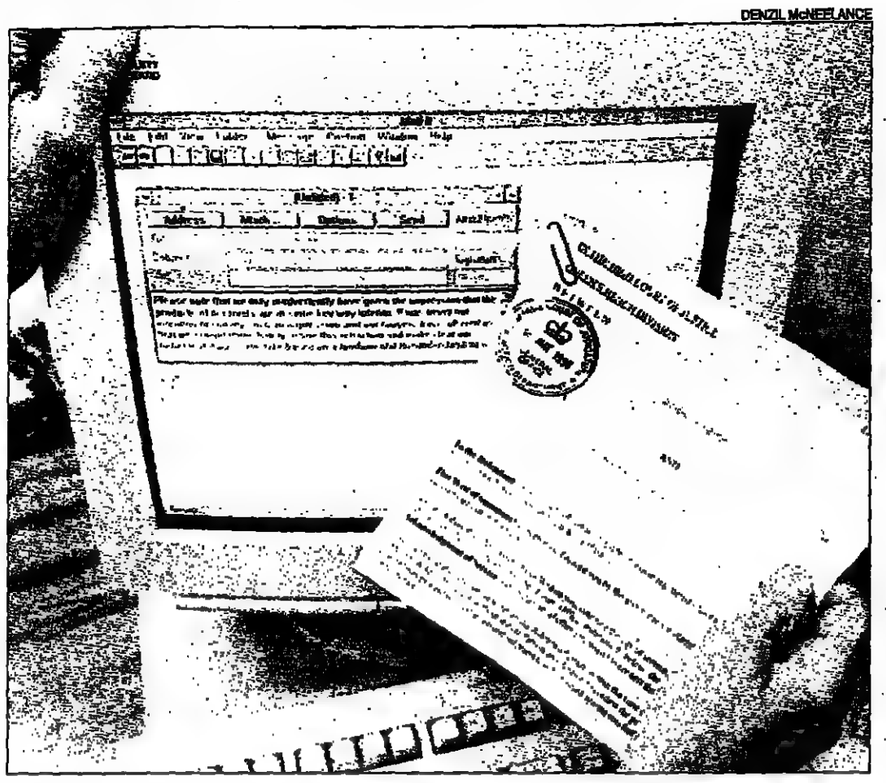
Another lesson to be drawn from the Western Provident case is that if companies are to protect their business *reputation from scurrilous* and defamatory material in cyberspace, they must act decisively and swiftly, partly because of the perishable nature of the evidence and *because of the speed at which bad* news travels by a computer network.

Corporate plaintiffs are generally at a disadvantage when bringing an action for libel. The legal theory *is that a company has no feelings* that can be hurt and, therefore, such a plaintiff is entitled to only modest damages.

The commercial reality, of course, *is rather different. The* speed and potential audience of electronic communication mean that, if it is not dealt with at once, defamation by e-mail can cause huge damage to the business reputation of a company — in a very short space of time.

● The author is a solicitor and member of the media litigation group at Theodore Goddard, which acted for Western Provident

DENZIL McNEELANCE



E-MAILS, A GROWTH AREA FOR DEFAMATION ACTIONS

■ *THERE was an earlier case than that involving* Norwich Union — *PC Eggleton v Asda* in 1995. Defamation cases are often unusual, and this was no exception. Eggleton had made a complaint about some *faulty goods. By pure chance, he ascertained that an e-*mail had been broadcast through Asda's stores network accusing him of what amounted to fraud. His libel action was based on publication within the store's group, and the action was subsequently compromised. *Whatever the merits of that case, any defamatory ma*terial about a serving police officer would plainly have serious implications for him.

E-mail defamation — on the Internet or elsewhere — *will become increasingly common, not least* because the creators of such defamatory material may labour under the misapprehension that they or their company are immune from a libel action through "confidentiality". There are now the first signs of, for example, sexual harassment by e-mail, often started by *defamatory comments between male employees about* female colleagues. And there may be a mistaken assumption that any such communications are protected by qualified privilege merely because they are *on an internal network and "deleted" after opening.*

Section 1(3) of the Defamation Act 1996 — commonly known as "the Internet defence" — would not actually apply to this type of libel. The Act also negates any further distinction between libellous material, so that a statement is defined as "words, pictures, visual images, gestures or any other method of signifying meaning". This easily covers e-mail, and is yet another hazard for employers. *Best practice suggests that employers ought to* include in their employment contracts a prohibition against sending defamatory or harassing e-mails.

MICHAEL GARDNER

● The author is a litigation partner at Morgan Bruce

London lawyers get set to tango

New society promotes ties with Argentina

South America, and Argentina in particular, may be the next boom region. Last *month, the Argentine Ministers* for the Economy and Foreign Relations were in London, while representatives of professional services have been *lobbying for improved relations.*

In response, the Law Society has been instrumental in setting up a new Society of British and Argentine Lawyers (Sobal), which held its first meeting, and appointed officers, last month.

Leading the drive for the new society has been Alexandra Sadler, of Blake Lapthorn, who is chairman, and Peter Taylor, of Taylors, the secretary, both of whom have personal links with Latin America. Their enthusiasm *for the area makes* them keen to dispel outdated images of the country and to *present it as one* that British lawyers should take seriously.

No one doubts Argentina's potential, but a history of high inflation and histrionic politics has caused a certain amount of *scepticism about the possibilities* of growth. Though a small core of lawyers in London has a longstanding interest in the country, *they are, for the most* part, maritime specialists dealing with the Port of Buenos Aires. As Paul Mulholland, a lawyer with Ince & Co and treasurer of Sobal, says: "Buenos Aires has been important for many years as a gateway to South America. Our interest has been largely on *behalf of ship* owners in the resolution of disputes over the large number of collisions."

Ms Sadler and Mr Taylor say there is more to the economy than prangs on the waterways. Inflation has fallen to reasonable levels and, during the first *four months of this year, exports* were up almost 18 per cent on the same period of 1996. Car exports alone are expected to double. A significant growth in air traffic between the UK and Argentina is predicted, with British Airways and Aerolineas Argentinas increasing services. Most important, a process of privatisation is galvanising legal activity, and there has been *extensive foreign investment* in the banking sector. It was largely for this reason that most of the top law firms, including Clifford Chance, Herbert Smith, *Linklaters & Paines* and Eversheds, were prepared to back Sobal.

Stephen Roith, the head of the Latin American practice at Clifford Chance, says the firm has recently become busy on capital markets and privatisation work in Argentina. The country has a solid base of traditional lawyers for routine transactions but it *is the new work* that needs the services of firms in the global financial centres. "In many respects, it is virgin territory, but at this stage we have no plans to open any *offices there*," says Mr Roith. "There are many good local lawyers and we have no intention of practising local law."

Latin American lawyers in London are few and far between. Leading the way is Noronha Advogados, with offices in *Knightsbridge*, Brazil and Argentina. Vera Dantas, a lawyer with the firm, backed the setting up of Sobal and hopes it will help to build links between the two countries. "Sobal is a good initiative," she says. "Relations between Britain and Latin America have never been better *and I hope the society* will support exchanges of lawyers between jurisdictions."

The creation of Mercosur — a common market comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay — is another key regional development. The Law Society hopes to establish similar associations with other Latin American countries, especially Brazil.

EDWARD FENNELL

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announces that it will cease practicing with effect from 31st August 1997. The partners will be joining the following firms respectively with effect from 1st September 1997:

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David Hartfield - Hartfields
Alastair Cornforth - Hextall Erskine
Michael Lent - Hammond Suddards
Martin Butterworth - Davies Arnold & Cooper
Jonathan Angell - Hartfields

Any enquiries after 1st September should be addressed to the partner who has conduct of the case at their new firm. Otherwise correspondance addressed to Alastair Thomson & Partners at the current address of Dragon Court, 27/29 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5LX will be re-directed to the relevant partner.

The partners thank the many clients and professional colleagues who have wished them well in their respective new ventures.

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Expanding City corporate department seeks a number of 1-4 year qualified assistants to work in its corporate and venture capital teams. With a non-hierarchical and non-elitist approach, solicitors seeking real responsibility, on-the-job training and a busy work environment will fit well. You need a "can do" approach, enthusiasm and a good honoured and lively personality. (Ref.014618)

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Our client is the legal and business affairs department of a large UK media organisation. Due to the continued success and expansion of their business they seek a lawyer to take responsibility for co-production and international licensing. Genuine opportunity to work closely with the business in an interesting and varied role. They seek 3-4 years' non-contentious media experience. (Ref.20453)

For further information on these, and the many other vacancies registered with us, please contact **Yasmin Phillips or Andrew Golding** (both qualified lawyers) on **0171-523 3838** (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends). *For in-house vacancies please contact* **Lisa Hicks** on **0171-523 3838** (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at: **ZMB**, Recruitment Consultants, 37 San Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail yasmin@zmb.co.uk Web site http://www.zmb.co.uk

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The post would suit a lawyer or academic taking time out from the law or research or someone from the Insurance Claims Market who has taken early retirement or is looking for a change in direction.

It is without doubt an exciting opportunity and if you are interested would you please contact with your cv:

Martin Bruffell, Chairman of the Liaison and Issues Committee, FOIL
Berrymans Lace Mawer, Salisbury House, London Wall, London EC2M 5QN. 0171 865 3302
or
Tony Cherry, President, FOIL
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CORRECTION NOTARIES PUBLIC

COURT OF FACULTIES EXAMINATION JANUARY 1998

The next examination for those seeking appointment as a Notary Public in England and Wales is to be held in London on 5th January 1998.

Applicants who are solicitors are required to take part IV of the examination consisting of papers on 'Notarial Practice' and 'Bills of Exchange'.

Full details of the syllabus, suggested reading list and also the method of appointment are available (by postal application only) from:

The Registrar, The Court of Faculties, 1 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3JT,(DX 2301 VICTORIA)

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No agencies need apply.

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BRIEFINGS

Businesses are losing millions of pounds a year through inefficient use of the phone. Energis, the business telecoms company, says. It says small businesses fail to answer 6 per cent of incoming calls and large companies fail to pick up one call in ten. The busiest phone times are around 10am, 1pm, 2pm and 4pm. Energis thinks that 50 per cent of outgoing calls made by businesses achieve nothing because the lines are engaged, calls go unanswered, or the caller declines to leave a message or hangs up after spending time in an automated queueing system.

☐ Office workers consume the equivalent of 15 Jeffrey Archer novels every year because of the growth of unnecessary or unwanted information landing on their desks, BT says. They receive, on average, 15 documents a day and send out a similar quantity.

☐ Rural Enterprise Project at Standon, near Ware, Hertfordshire, is to recruit parish business ambassadors to support and advise small local initiatives. This is the latest step in a pilot scheme, started two years ago by the county council and East Hertfordshire District Council to stimulate isolated areas and offset unemployment. Call Susan Clark on 01920 822735.

☐ A conference aimed at small exporters will be held by the Federation of Small Businesses at the Café Royal, London, on October 14. The cost is £60, including lunch. Call Sophie Timms on 0171-233 7900.

To meet a millionaire's eye

Mark Andrews finds a master craftsman glad to be expensive

PAUL FIEVEZ

Trevor Proudfoot works on the restoration of two busts with assistant Louisa Pryor at Cliveden

Trevor Proudfoot cannot emphasise it enough: He doesn't come cheap. "If I thought I was getting work because I was the cheapest, that would worry me. I'm not and I'm pleased about that."

It is a simple business philosophy that is standing him in good stead. Mr Proudfoot heads the Cliveden Conservation Workshop, centred on a collection of old buildings on the edge of the renowned Cliveden estate at Taplow, in Berkshire.

The workshop was once an Eton fives court, a tennis court, and a mortuary. It is now dedicated, Mr Proudfoot says, "to the conservation of statuary, masonry, wall paintings and the decorative arts".

He trained for seven years as a stonemason and went to work for the National Trust, effectively as its resident mason, to advise on the repair and conservation of statuary. Then, eight years ago, and, with the Trust's blessing, he became an independent company, financially separate from the Trust, but retaining the role of adviser. "They are the backbone of our business, but in eight years we have established ourselves nationwide as the leader in restoration and conservation." At the moment he and his band of 14 craftsmen and women are involved in £1 million's worth of restoration work around the country and in Turkey, the US and Ireland.

Mr Proudfoot is in the strange situation of being asked by the National Trust to offer advice and then find two or three rival companies to bid for work in competition with himself.

Nevertheless, the National Trust is still his biggest customer and his main role in life is as its adviser.

The jewel in the company's crown to date is Uppark House, on the Sussex Downs, which was consumed by fire seven years ago. Restoration work cost £24 million and is being hailed as an example of the 20th-century restorer's art. The fire at Windsor Castle has also provided Mr Proudfoot with work.

He expects work to increase, but admits to terrible blunders when he started. He spent too much time keeping track of the money and not enough on site. Two business advisers showed him how to run a board meeting and there was help from the Berkshire Enterprise Agency. He now has a volunteer chairman and a volunteer director.

He says: "You're never going to become a rich man out of conservation, but, if you're associated with good work, you can look any millionaire in the eye."

Firms at risk from high-tech fraudsters

By Rodney Hobson

FRAUDSTERS are getting more sophisticated and the spread of office technology has made small businesses more vulnerable, Latham Crossley & Davis, a firm of Manchester accountants, says.

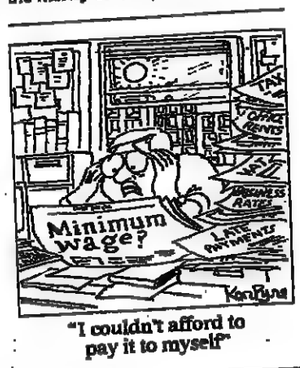
Computers, desktop publishing software and image scanners are a boon for fraudsters, John Rafferty, the firm's fraud expert and a former Serious Fraud Office investigator, said.

He added: "Criminals can use colour photocopiers and desktop publishing to produce high-quality forgeries of company letterheads, share certificates and currency. In one case, the US presidential seal and the CIA seal were scanned into a computer and used to create White House and CIA stationery. This was then used to corroborate a fraudster's claim that he was involved with the US Government at the highest level." Faxes can conceal the location of a criminal and transmission details edited to show a false date, time or place.

Mr Rafferty said: "Although most businesses protect their financial systems, weakness often lies in allowing access to other information. Samples of corporate stationery and other information on the Internet can be very useful to the fraudster. He can create company paperwork and weave the information gained into his story to give it authenticity. A technically efficient fraudster may even plant information within a business's computer system so that bogus files support his claim to work for the company."

He said businesses should review control systems when introducing new or upgraded technology and check the veracity of documentation and background details on big transactions.

Mr Rafferty said entrepreneurs were also being targeted. "The scam begins with the fraudster advertising cheap start-up loans in local papers, or directly approaching small businessses. Once potential borrowers have expressed interest, the fraudster asks for payment of anything from a few hundred to thousands of pounds to enable him to prepare a business plan to support the loan application. That is often the last you see of the money or the fraudster."



"I couldn't afford to pay it to myself"

DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 1997: ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

FULLY updated degree vacancies for engineering and technology courses appear today for students aiming to enter higher education this October.

Clearing, the process which matches students with the remaining unfilled places, has been extremely busy so far as students claim the last "free" places before the introduction of tuition fees next year.

Courses are filling fast but there is still a wide variety to choose from.

Fully updated degree vacancies will be published daily in *The Times* on a three-day cycle. Science appears on Wednesdays and Saturdays, arts and social science on Mondays and Thursdays, and engineering and technology on Tuesdays and Fridays.

An asterisk shows courses are part of modular schemes, available in a variety of combinations. All others are identified by the course codes used in the Ucas handbook.

AERONAUTICS

City, H400, H401, H405, H403, H422, H420, H402, H423, H424
Coventry, H400
Cranfield, H420
Hertfordshire, H420, H421, H428, H430, H438
Kingston, H423, H424
Liverpool, H425, H421, H420
Manchester, H400, H401, H402
North East Wales Inst, FH43
Queen Mary Westfield Col, H421, JSH4, H420, H425
Queen's, H400
Salford, H400, H420
Stockport Col, H400
Swansea Inst, KW12
West of England, H420, H421, 004H

ANIMATION

North East Wales Inst, W270, WH25, W216

ARCHITECTURE/ ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN/ ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES

Anglia, K236
Brighton, K100
Central England, K100, K300
Coventry, K236, K237
De Montfort, K100, KK14
Derby, K101
Dundee, K100
Glasgow, J620, J625, J627
Glasgow Caledonian, K236
Greenwich, K100, K300
Heriot-Watt, K300E
Huddersfield, K100, K236
Kingston, K100
Leeds, H340
Leeds Metropolitan, K300
Lincolnshire & Humberside, K100, K236
Liverpool John Moores, K100
Luton, K100, K236
Manchester Metropolitan, K300
Napier, K236
Nene Col, K210
Newcastle, J620, J621, J610, J611
North East Wales Inst, K100
North London, K100
Northumbria, KK14, KK12
Nottingham Trent, K101
Plymouth, K101, K100
Portsmouth, K100
Queen's, K236
Robert Gordon, K236, K100, K172, K1W2
Sheffield Hallam, K230
Southampton Inst, K236
South Bank, K235, K100, K108
Strathclyde, K100, K172
Teesside, W235
Westminster, K236
West of England, KK14

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Birmingham, GG58
Derby, G801
Luton, G800
Sussex, G800, G872
UMIST, G800
Westminster, G800

ASTRONOMY

Aberystwyth, FF65
Glasgow Caledonian, FG51
Hertfordshire, F5F6, F5F9, F5F9, F5N2.*
Newcastle, F520, F521
Queen Mary Westfield Col, F500, FG51

ASTROPHYSICS

Hertfordshire, F501, F521, F522, F528, F523
Keele, CF75*
Liverpool John Moores, F520, F521
Queen Mary Westfield Col, F526
Royal Holloway Col, F520

AUTOMATED MANUFACTURE

Central England, H340, H348
Hertfordshire, H340, H348
Sunderland, H340, H348

AUTOMATED SYSTEMS

Bolton Inst, H348, H340, H341, H343, HH73, HH73, HH7H.*
Heriot-Watt, G700
Kingston, H340, H341
Sunderland, HH36

AVIONICS

Glasgow, HH16
Lincolnshire & Humberside, H400, HH46
Queen Mary Westfield Col, HH45

BIOCHEMISTRY/ BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCES

Aberdeen, C700, C7C9, C7C3, CC75
Aberystwyth, C700
Bangor, C700, C650, CF71, CC17
Birmingham, C700, C720, C7C6, C7J8
Bradford, C760
Brunel, C712, C710, C711
Coventry, C700, C7T2
Dundee, C700, BC27, CB71
East London, C700
Essex, C700, C720, C721, CC78
Glasgow, C700, C701
Greenwich, C700, C701
Heriot-Watt, C700, F1C7
Huddersfield, C700
Keele, CF7C*
Kent, C700,*
Kingston, C700
Lancaster, C700
Liverpool John Moores, CC7M, C710, CC75
Luton, CN71*
Newcastle, C700
North East Surrey Col, C700, C708
North London, C700,*
Northumbria, BF11
Nottingham Trent, CC57
Portsmouth, C700
Queen Mary Westfield Col, C700, C7C5
Queen's, C700
Reading, J800, C700
Royal Holloway, C720, CJ78, C700, C7NC, C7C5
Salford, C700, C100, C102
South Bank, FC17, LC17, FC37, CF78, V700, C700
Southampton, C700
Staffordshire, CC6R, CC75
St Andrews,*
Stirling, C700, CX77
Stockport Col, C700
Strathclyde, CJ78, CD74, CC75, CC76, CC79, CB72
Surrey, C700, C720, C706
Sussex, C700, C706, C7R1, C7R2, C7R4, C7N1, C7C1
Swansea, C700, C701, C7R3
West of England, CC76, C980
Westminster, BC17, CC75
Wolverhampton, C700, C7D4, C7C1, C7F
Wye Col, C700

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES/ TECHNOLOGY

Aberay, C9C2
Aberdeen, B940, B9C6, B9B2, B9B1
Anglia, BR91,*
Birmingham, BJ95
Bradford, B940
Brighton, B940
De Montfort, B940, FB19, X7BX, B9N1, 7X8X
Durham, B940
East London, B940,
Glasgow, B940
Glasgow Caledonian, B940
Greenwich, B940
Keele, C930
Kingston, B930
Liverpool John Moores, B940, B948
Manchester, J2B9, J2BX
Napier, B940
North East Surrey Col, B940, B948
North London, B940
Northumbria, BF11
Nottingham Trent, B940
Paisley, B940
Portsmouth, B940
Queen Mary Westfield Col, J801
Queen's, B940
Southampton, B940
Staffordshire, B940
Sunderland, B940
UMIST, J2B9, J2BX, J2BY
UWIC, B940, 049B
West of England, BF91
Westminster, B940
Wolverhampton, Y401, B940

BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCES

Liverpool, C650
Portsmouth, C650

BIOPHYSICS/ BIOPHYSICAL SCIENCE

Bournemouth, F930
East London, C600

BIOSCIENCES/ APPLIED BIOSCIENCES

Chester, C9R1, C9R2
Glasgow, C174, C175
Glasgow Caledonian, C120
King's Col, C7T9, C610, C650, C620, J800, CC69, CC57, C720, C700, BC17, F1CR, F1C7, CC79
Leeds Metropolitan, B940
Strathclyde, C910

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Aberdeen, J800
Abertay, Dundee, C930, C9B9, C9C5
De Montfort, J800
Glasgow, C110
East London, J800
Glamorgan, J800
Leeds, J800
Luton, GJ58, BJ98, JB82, BJ29
North East Surrey Col, J801, J808
Nottingham, D816
Paisley, J800
Plymouth, C9N1
Portsmouth, J800
South Bank, J800,*
Teesside, J801
West of England, BF91, J800
Westminster, J800, J801
Wolverhampton, Y401, J800

BUILDING/BUILDING STUDIES/BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

Abertay, Dundee, K250,
Anglia, K281
Bolton Inst, K260
Brighton, H108, K200, K260
Central England, K243, K250, K251
Central Lancashire, K250, K240, 002K, 00ZK,
De Montfort, K260, 002K
Glamorgan, K201, K208, K250, K279
Glasgow Caledonian, K200, K241, K250, K240, K260
Greenwich, K242*
Huddersfield, K290
Liverpool, K200, K201
Luton, KN21, KK24, K210
Napier, K440, K250, K260
North East Surrey Col, KW22, KW2F
Northumbria, K250, F258, 052H, K252, K253, B72K, K251, K470, 002K
Nottingham, H3K2
Nottingham Trent, K201
Oxford Brookes, K200
Portsmouth, 002KH
Reading, K254, K220, K260
Robert Gordon, K250
Salford, K2N1, K2N3
Southampton Inst, K201R, K201L
South Bank, K240,*
UMIST, K240
Westminster, K240
West of England, K200, 002K
Wolverhampton, K250

BUILDING SURVEYING

Anglia, K260
Brighton, K260
Central England, K260
Coventry, K260, K2TG
De Montfort, K260
Glamorgan, K260, K261, K280, K450, N800
Greenwich, K260, K261, K2F9, K2GM, K262
Heriot-Watt, K260, K270
Kingston, K260
Leeds Metropolitan,*
Liverpool John Moores, K260
Luton, K260
Northumbria, K260, 026K
Nottingham Trent, K260
Reading, K260
Salford, K260
Sheffield Hallam, K260
Westminster, K260
West of England, K260
Wolverhampton, K260

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Coventry, HK22
Luton, NN81,*
West of England, K2K3, K2KH

CARTOGRAPHY

Oxford Brookes,*

CERAMICS/ CERAMICS SCIENCE/CERAMICS TECHNOLOGY

Canterbury Christ Church Col, J300
Leeds, J300
North East Wales Inst, W232, WJ23, WJ63, WJ13
Staffordshire, JG35
Swansea Inst, W233
Wolverhampton, Y401, EJ23, WJ23

CLOTHING STUDIES/TECHNOLOGY

De Montfort, O74J
Manchester Metropolitan, J470, J4ND
UMIST, J4T9, J4N9

COMMAND AND CONTROL

Bolton Inst, 964H

COMPUTER SYSTEMS/COMPUTER SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Abertay, Dundee, G561
Aberystwyth, G700
Anglia, HK82, G524, GL53, HH67, DG25, GF56, GW5M, GH56, CG51, GG51, BG55, FG35
Bangor, H617, H616, H615, H661, H6N1, H6R1, H6R2
Bournemouth, H610, H618, H621, G700, G710
Brighton, G700
Central England, G700, G701, G708, G709
Cheltenham & Gloucester, G525, N1GM, G521, GF5P
City, G710, G600, G601, G608,*
Coventry, G500,*
De Montfort, G520
East London, CG1M, L340
Glasgow, GH66, GH7P, G530
Goldsmiths Col, London, G520, G5N2
Greenwich, G6G7
Heriot-Watt, HHM6
Huddersfield, GH56, GK51
Hull, G600, G6N1, G6R1, G6R2, G6T4, G601, G701
Kent, G700K, QG25, QG85
Kingston, G521, G561
Lincolnshire & Humberside, GJ59
Loughborough, H610
Luton, G601
Manchester Metropolitan, G700, G708, GGMC,*
Middlesex, H620B, G500B, G801B
Nottingham Trent, G600, G508
Oxford Brookes,*
Paisley, G500, G700
Plymouth, G600
Portsmouth, G602, H620
Reading, G501, G500, G5V7
Roehampton Inst, G710*
South Bank, G500,*
Sunderland, H611, H618
Teesside, G700
Westminster, G700, H620, FG35, G600,
West of England, G700
Wolverhampton, Y401, G500

COMPUTING/ COMPUTER SCIENCE/COMPUTER STUDIES

Aberdeen, G502, NGC5, GG51, GG4M, G500*
Aberystwyth, G500, G5T9
Anglia, G500, GR51, GR52, GL54, GR53, GR54,
Aston, G500, GN51, CF59, GJ5X, GR51, GR52, GJ59, GL54, G701
Birmingham, G5N1, GG57
Bolton Inst, 216H, H7WG, H7W2, H7WF, G500
Bournemouth,*
Bradford, G500, G501, G520, G521, G5N1, G5NC, G540, G541
Brighton, G501, G500, G560, GF58, GG51, CF53, GG54,*
Brunel, G500, G507, G502,*
Buckinghamshire Col, G500,*
Cardiff, 105G
Central England, G500, GH56, H160, HJ61, H168
Cheltenham & Gloucester, G561, G526, G505, G5NC
Chester, G500, G170
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De Montfort, G500, G501, G503, Y400, G535
Derby, G501, G506, G507, G800, G700, G540
Dundee, G510, G511, GHM6, GL51, GL5C, CG85
East London, G538, GH66, 105G, NG47
Essex, H616, G500,*
Glamorgan, G501, G5N1, G5N4, G5T9, G700, GN51, PG35, G560, G564, G568
Glasgow, NG15, G500 Glasgow Caledonian, G170, H161, G500
Goldsmiths Col, London, GG54
Grantham Col, G65X, G507, G508
Greenwich, G500, G504, G5N1, G720, H161
Heriot-Watt, H370, G500, G520, G700, G560, G570
Hertfordshire, G5H7,*
Huddersfield, G700, G500, GG15, G501, GG51, GL57, G523, GT52, GN51
Hull, G500, G560, G700, G702, G703, GG5C, H160, G501, G568
Keele, GL51*
Kent, G500, G501, G504, G5N1, G5NC, H610, H612, H614, QG25
King Alfred's Uni Col, G500,*
Kings Col, F3G5, GG1N, GH66, GH6Q, G5N1, GH56, G500, GH6P, TZG5, F1GM, F1G5, R4G5, LKG5, R5G5,*
Kingston, FG15, FG85, FG65, GG15, FG35, G[illegible]
Lancaster, G500
Leeds Metropolitan, G501, G710
Leicester, G500
Lincolnshire & Humberside, JG59, G500,*
Liverpool, G520, [illegible] ST2
Liverpool John [illegible] G610, G[illegible] G600, G50
London Guildhall, G[illegible] G520
Luton, G500
Manchester Met, G500, G508,*
Middlesex, H161B, G508B
Napier, GH5P, G500
Nene Col, G560, G900
Newcastle, GH56, GL51, FG35, G500, G700
North East Surrey Col, G500, G508
North East Wales Inst, G500, G564
North London, G500, G501,*
Northumbria, G502, G5N1, G504, G501, G5C8, GP54, 105G, 305G, G508
Nottingham Trent, G501, G507
Paisley, GH66, GG54
Portsmouth, G500, GP52, GH66, GH6P, G600, G603
Queen Marc Westfield Col, G500, G5N1, GG15, GG45, H610, H611
Queen's, G500, G503, GG51, GG54
Reading, G5G1, G5GC,*
Robert Gordon, NG15, G500, G501
Royal Holloway, G500 GG51, GF53
St Andrews, G500, GG15, GF53, GG45
Salford, H610, H6N1,
Sheffield, G700, G600 GN51,*
Sheffield Hallam,
Southampton, G500
Southampton Inst, G501 G502E, G502H, G502L, G502R
South Bank, GL51,*
Staffordshire, GH56, GM53,*
Stirling, G500,*
Strathclyde, GH56, G500, GH56 G5T9
Suffolk, Uni Col, G700
Sunderland, G523, G500,*
Surrey, G560, G5n1, G510, G511
Sussex, G575 G5R1, G502,*
Swansea Inst, G520
Teesside G110 H611, G500, GG15, GG54, H109, G710
Thames Valley, G5P3
UMIST, F376, G501
Westminster, GG15, G500, H640, H648
West of England, G500, 105G, GH10, GG15, GG67, GG0R

CONSTRUCTION

Anglia, K250
Brighton, K250
Bolton Inst, K250
Central England, K201
Coventry, K200, K2T2
Derby, K252
Heriot-Watt, K200, K241
Leeds Metropolitan, K250, KN29
Liverpool John Moores, K250
Loughborough, K241
Luton, K250
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Northumbria, K251, K252, K253, 012K
Nottingham Trent, K200, K256
Paisley, K250, FK92
Portsmouth, FH92
Reading, K201, K255
Robert Gordon, K250
Sheffield Hallam, K250
Southampton Inst, K252, K258E, K258L, K258R
South Bank, K252, K256
Surrey, K285
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Swansea Inst, K250
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UMIST, K256
Westminster, K250
West of England, K252, K251
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CONTROL/CONTROL SYSTEMS

Coventry, H640
Huddersfield, H660
Lincolnshire & Humberside, H643
Sheffield, G600, H370, H640, H642, H670
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CYBERNETICS/ HUMAN CYBERNETICS

Bradford, H658, HHeJ

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Anglia, H680, H711
Blackpool, E216, E217
Bolton Inst, E200, 29WJ, H768, H760, H761, H770, H771
Bournemouth, H680, H688, H762, H768, H770, W230, W231
Brighton, X7W2, XW62, V480, H770
Brunel, H770,*
Central England, W231, E231, W260, E260, W290, WJ23, EJ23, K442
Central Lancashire, H770, H772
Colchester, W200
De Montfort, H770, W280, W210, W230, W290
East London, H600
Edge Hill, X7WF, X7W2
Glamorgan, E210
Glasgow Caledonian, W260
Goldsmiths Col, E200
Greenwich, K232, K2GN, W200, K2E4
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Huddersfield, W250, H601, H3H1
Hull, H765, HH57
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Leeds Metropolitan, XW62, XW7F, XW72
Lincolnshire & Humberside, W260, E260, 062W, 062E
London Guildhall, EW42, W204
Luton, H160, HW72, W230, E230, W235, E235
Manchester Metropolitan, Y420, XW72
Middlesex, E201B, W240P, XW72P
Napier, H770
Nene Col, HW72, EW72
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Northumbria, H160, E230, E210
Paisley, H160
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Portsmouth, H770
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Robert Gordon, W230
Salford, W210, E210, W205, E205, W230, E230, W200, E200
Staffordshire, W233*
South Bank, H760
Sunderland, W265
Teesside, H760, W2N5, W230
UWIC, 006H
Warwick, H762, H764
West of England, X6W2, X7W2, XW72
Westminster, W200, K4n1, K469
Wolverhampton, EJ29, WJ29, Y401, E200, W200, EJ29, WJ29

DIGITAL SYSTEMS DESIGN

Kent, H616
Luton, H615*
West of England, H615, H616

DISASTER ENGINEERING/ MANAGEMENT/ RELIEF

Coventry, JN01

ENGINEERING/ ENGINEERING SCIENCE

Aberdeen, H100, H200, H500, H105, H300, H101, H6G7
Abertay, Dundee, HN11, HN1C, GG11, H600, H672, H681, H100, H300, H372,*
Anglia, H640, H710, K200
Aston, FH18, H803,*
Bangor, H601, H600, H605, H500
Barnsley Col, H100
Birmingham, H800, H601, H700, H200,*
Bolton Inst, 805H, H608, H600, H601, 11HN, H206, H201, H200, GH6P, GH66, GH6Q
Bournemouth, H110, H118, H600, H608, H610, H618, H620, H621, H671, H678, H680, H688, H762, H768, H770, H771
Bradford, H800, H805, H806, H220, H250, HH5P, H695, H181,*
Brighton, H200, H156, H630, HG66, HG66, H600, H650, HH34, H300, HH23, H520, G700
Brunel,*
Central England, G522, G528, G5R1, G5R2, G5RC, G5RF, H1N1, H1ND, H528, H600*, HR62
Central Lancashire, J908, 206H, 106H, H608, H600, H108,*
City, H200, H201, H202, H205, H204, H207, H208, H209, HH56, H6H5, H640, H680, H641, HH65, H6HM, H6HN, HJ30, JH93,*
Coventry, G700, H750, H108, H343, H340, HH46, H203, H300, H100*
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UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE HOTLINE NUMBERS FOR CLEARING

Aberdeen Uni	01224 273 504
Abertay Uni	01382 308 080
Anglia Uni	01223 563 271
Aston Uni	0121 359 3611
Bangor Normal Col	01248 382 600
Barnsley Col	01226 730 191
Bath Col	01225 875 875
Birmingham Uni	0121 414 3344
B'ham Col of Food & Tourism	0121 604 1040
Bishop Grosseteste Col	01522 527 347x284
Blackburn Col	01254 292 929
Blackpool & Fylde Col	01253 352 352
Bolton Institute	01204 903 903
Bournemouth Uni	01202 524 111
Bradford Uni	01274 385 400
Bradford & Ilkley College	0800 833194
Bretton Hall	01924 832 017
Brighton Uni	01273 600 900
British Inst in Paris	0171 636 8000
Brunel Uni	01895 203 192
Buckingham Uni	01280 820 299
Buckinghamshire Col	0800 056 5000
Canterbury Christ Church Col	01227 767 700
Central England Uni	0121 331 6777
Central Lancashire Uni	01772 201 201
Central Sch Speech & Drama	0171 722 8183
Cheltenham & Gloucester Col	01242 532 825
Chester Col	01244 375 444
Chichester Inst	01243 816 001
City Uni	0171 477 8877
Colchester Inst	01206 718 000
Coventry Uni	01203 838 181
Cranfield Uni RMCS (Silsoe)	01525 863 315
Cranfield Uni RMCS (Shriv'ham)	01793 785 400
Croydon Col	0181 760 5801
Darlington Col	01803 861 620
De Montfort Uni	0645 454 647
Derby Uni	01332 621 300
Dundee Uni	01382 345 404
Durham Uni	01642 335 021
East Anglia Uni	01603 592 216
East European Studies School	0171 637 4934
East London Uni	0181 849 3443
Edge Hill Uni Col	01695 584 584
Essex Uni	01206 873 666
European Business School	0171 487 7507
Exeter Uni	01392 263 035
Glamorgan Uni	0800 716 925
Glasgow Uni	0141 330 4912
Glasgow Caledonian Uni	0141 331 3138
Goldsmiths Col, London	0171 919 7500
Grantham Col	01476 400 200
Greenwich Uni	0800 005 006
Grimsby Col	0800 315 002
Gyosei Int Col	0118 931 0152
Halton Col	0151 495 3315
Harper Adams Col	01952 815 000
Herefordshire Col	01432 352 235
Herefordshire Col	01432 352 275
Heriot-Watt Uni	0131 451 3376
Hertfordshire Uni	01707 284 848
Heythrop Col	0171 795 6600
Holburn Law Col	0171 585 5577
Huddersfield Uni	01484 472 777
Hull Uni	0870 122 244
Imperial Col, London	0171 589 5111
Keele Uni	[illegible]
Kent Uni	01227 [illegible] 272
Kidderminster Col	01562 [illegible]
King Alfred's Winchester	01962 [illegible]
King's Col London	0171 836 5454
Kingston Uni	0181 547 7575
Lancaster Uni	01524 592 026
Leeds Uni	0113 233 3000
Leeds Trinity & All Saints	0113 283 7125
Leeds Met Uni	0113 283 3115
Leicester Uni	0116 252 5281
Lincolnshire & Humberside Uni	01482 463 930
Liverpool Uni	0151 794 6900
Liverpool Hope Uni Col	0151 291 3246
Liverpool Inst Performing Arts	0151 330 3232
Liverpool John Moores	0800 564 565
London Guildhall Uni	0171 320 1111
London Inst	0171 514 6000
Loughborough	01509 222 498
LSU Southampton	01703 216 200
Luton Uni	01582 728 554
Manchester Uni	0161 275 2077
Manchester Met Uni	0161 247 2000
Matthew Boulton Col	0121 446 4545
Middlesex Uni	0181 362 6505
Moray Inst	0990 100 809
Napier Uni	0131 455 4330
Nene Col	01604 735 500
Newcastle Uni	0345 887 722
Newman Col	0121 476 1181
North East Surrey Col	0181 394 3300
Northern Col	01224 238 598
North East Wales Inst	01978 290 666
North London Uni	0171 753 5355
Northumbria Uni	0191 227 4777
Norwich City Col	01603 773 344
Nottingham	0115 951 5752
Nottingham Trent Uni	0115 941 8418
Oxford Brookes Uni	01865 483 040
Paisley Uni	0990 403020
Peterborough Regional College	01733 673 [illegible]
Plymouth Uni	01752 233400
Portsmouth Uni	01705 876 543
Queen Margaret Col	0131 317 3399
Queen Mary & Westfield	0171 975 5511
Queen's Uni of Belfast	01232 273 074
Reading College	0118 967 5052
Reading Uni	0118 987 5123
Ripon & York St John	01904 616 980
Robert Gordon Uni	01224 262 105
Roehampton Inst	0181 392 3000
Rose Bruford Col	0181 308 2611
Royal Agricultural Col	01285 652 531
Royal Holloway, London	01784 443 582
Salford Uni	0161 295 5555
Salisbury [illegible]	01722 323 711
Scarborough Uni Col	0800 216 124
Sheffield Coll	0114 222 2000
Sheffield Hallam Uni	0114 272 0911
Southampton Inst	0800 547 800
Southampton Uni	01703 595959
South Bank Uni	0171 815 8155
St Andrews Col, Glasgow	01334 462 150
St Andrews Uni	01334 462 020
St Mark & St John Col	01752 636 848
St Mary's Uni Col	0181 240 4225
Staffordshire Uni	0800 980 830
Stirling Uni	01786 466 166
Stockport Col	0161 958 3412
Strathclyde	0141 548 2813
Suffolk Coll	01473 296 092
Sunderland Uni	0191 515 3000
Surrey Uni	0800 980 3200
Surrey Inst	01252 732 232
Sussex Uni	01273 678 416
Sutton & Cheshunt Col	0121 356 5671
Swansea Inst	0800 731 0864
Teesside Uni	01642 218 121
Thames Valley Uni	0181 579 5000
Trinity Col, Carmarthen	01267 676 733
Ulster Uni	01265 324 941
UMIST	0161 200 4400
Uni Col London (UCL)	0171 380 7305
Uni Col, St Martin	0800 731 7331
Uni Col, Warrington	01925 494 494
UWIC	01222 506 050
Warwick Uni	01203 533 544
West Herts Uni	01923 812 505
Westhill Col	0121 415 2251
West of England Uni	0117 965 6261
Westminster Col, Oxford	01865 793 876
Westminster Uni	0171 911 5000
Wolverhampton Uni	01902 323 232
Worcester Col	01905 855 111
Wye Col, London	01233 812 401
Wrinle Col	01245 420 705
York Uni	01904 433 020

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

Aberystwyth	01970 621 997
Bangor	01248 382 000
Cardiff	01222 874 412
Newport	01633 430 088
Lampeter	01570 [illegible] 23 530
Swansea	01792 [illegible] 5 1997

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DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 1997: ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Derby. HHC9. HH56. HHC9
Dundee. H200. H201. HK22. HK21.
HH56. H6F2. H6FF*
East Anglia. H600. H601. H602.
H603. H604. H605. H640. HP64
East London. H200. 002H. HH56.
65HH. HH65. HH6M. H602. H680
Essex.*
Exeter. H106. H202. H601. H704.
J120. J150
Glamorgan. H200. H201. H220.
H600. H620. HH56. HH5P
Glasgow. FH36. H200. H2F6.
H6F3. HH56. HJ56. J650. J6H3
Glasgow Caledonian. HN71. H520.
H601. B800. P4G5. W350. N830.
GH76
Grantham Col. H208. HH65. H118.
H209
Greenwich. H500. HH56. HH5P.
HH5Q. HN11. H588. HH5P. H600.
HN1D. HN11. H2F9. H200. H202.
H2T2. H2N1. H208
Halton Col. 048H
Heriot-Watt. H3J9.*
Hertfordshire. HN1C. H200. H208.
HN11
Huddersfield. H600. H620. GH56.
HH56. H340. H161
Hull. H600. H620. H601. H161
Kent. H600. H601. H605. H673
King's Col. GH66. H622. GH6P.
H604. H603. H602. GHP6. H621
Kingston. H203. H204. H261.
H202. F380
Lancaster. H100. H300. H600
Leeds. H2KC. H2F9. H200. H2K1.
H202. H600. H620. H6G6. H6H5.
H862. H8F9. H8FX. H3G1. H8J1.
J120. J1F9
Leeds Metropolitan. H200. H108
Leicester. H100. H101. H102.
HH56. HG67
Lincolnshire & Humberside. H623.
HH56. H620. HH65. H103. HH73
Liverpool. H200. H221. H220.
BF92. H500. H501*. H100. H101*
Liverpool John Moores. H680.
H688. H100. H108. HG66. HG6P.
H160. H168. HH56. HH5P. H620.
H628. H641. H642. HH37. HH3R.
HH65. H250. H101. HH6M. H170.
H718. H770. G700. H200
London Uni Col (UCL). H810.
H872.*
Loughborough. H800. H872.
H880. H200. HH56
Manchester. H200*. HH56*. H600*.
H611*. HN11*. H2K1. H2KC
Manchester Metropolitan. H620.
H621. GH66. GH6P. HH56. HH5P.
HH6M. H6N1. H6NC. H110. H108
Middlesex. H600B. H6N1B.
Napier. H200. HH23. H260. GH56.
HH5b. HJ59. H1N1. G700. H623
Newcastle. H840. H800. H600.*
North East Surrey Col. H250. H258
North East Wales Inst. HH56
North London. H620. 026H. H601.
J440
Northumbria. HH56. H588. HH5Q.
65HH. H710. H1N1. H1NC. H1ND.
J500. J508
Nottingham. H250. H255. H200.
H620. J520. HH56. HH65. H603.
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He00. H6RC. H6RF. H6RK. H6RV.
HG61
Nottingham Trent. H250. H200.
H208. H260. H2N1. HH56. H600.
H620. H618. H110. H118. H202.
H261. H209
Oxford Brookes. H200. H201.
H601. H108. H208
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J520
Portsmouth. H2F6. J200. H100.
H250. H601. H108. H770. HN11.
H1NC.
Queen Mary Westfield Col. H100.
H106. H1F9. H1N1. H1R1. H1R2.
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H6R1. H6R2. H6R4.*
Queen's. H800. H200. HH56.
HG67. G700
Reading Col.*
Robert Gordon. H620. GH66.
HH56. H370. H360. HH5P
Salford. H100. H300. H700.*
Sheffield. H800. H840. H220.
H500. H8J8. H8T9. H2K1. H2T9.
HK21. H500. H5T9. H600. H610.
H611. H620. H630. H6T9. H6TX
Sheffield Hallam. H200. H250.*
Southampton. H200. H103.*
Southampton Inst. H600. H608*.
H1N1*
South Bank. H801.*
Staffordshire. B808. B390.*
Stirling. G700. L188. C170
Stockport Coll. H200. HH56. H700.
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Sunderland. J976. J978*. HH56.
H110. HT32. HH6P. H118
Surrey. H840. H841. H842. H800.
H802. H801. H805. H804. H806.*
Sussex. H618. HHQ5. H308. H610.
*
Swansea. H800. H801. H803.
H201. H203. H2R1. H2R2. H2R3.
H2R4. HHM6. HH65. HH6M.
HH56. H101
Swansea Inst. G700. H6H3. H340.
G600. H600. H760. H710.*
Strathclyde. K210. H800. H8J8.
H200. H2F9. H2T2. HH56. HH5Q.
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FOOTWEAR DESIGN/FASHION/TECHNOLOGY

Salford. W225. E225

FOREST PRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY

Abertay. Dundee. CD93
Bangor. D322
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J5N5. D315

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Buckinghamshire. E610. J450.
E260. E220
London Guildhall. E420. EW4F.
J452. N330
Wolverhampton. WJ24. Y401

GLASS/GLASS SCIENCE

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WJ13
Wolverhampton. Y401. E223. W223

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Glamorgan. E210
Halton Col.*
Hull. GG5D
Lincolnshire & Humberside. W211.
E211
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Napier. W210
Nene Col. W212. E212
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WH2M
Southampton Inst. W211. W218L.
W218K
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IMAGE STUDIES/IMAGING SCIENCES

Anglia. GW55. HW6M. GWC5.
BW55. FW35. CW85. GW55
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Huddersfield. GW52
North East Surrey Col. WW25.
WW2M
Teesside. G5W2
West Hertfordshire College. E560

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Aberdeen. G522
Lampeter. GL56. GL58. GL5V.
GQ53. GM59. GN51. GQ55. GQ56.
GQ57. GQ58. GQ5N. GR51. GR52.
GR5F. GT56. GV51. GV56. GV57.
GV58. GV5C. GV5D. GV5V.
Teesside. G501. NG14

INFORMATION SCIENCE/STUDIES

Abertay. P200
Aberdeen. GN51.
Bolton Inst. G520
Bournemouth. G520. 265G.
265GW. 265GY. G520. G700. G710
Bradford. G530. G531
Buckingham. G500.*
Central England. P210. PP24.
G560. G568. G720
Glamorgan. G521
Leeds Metropolitan. PP12
Lincolnshire & Humberside. G520
Manchester Metropolitan. P100.
PP12
Napier. G520
North London. PP23.*
Paisley. G520
Queen Margaret Col. P200
Queen Mary Col. P200
Sheffield Hallam. G521
Sunderland. G560. 212E
Surrey. HHP5. H632. H630. H634
Swansea. G710
Teesside. G520. GW52
Thames Valley. P2N4*
Trinity Col. Carmarthen. G520
West of England. G562.*
Wolverhampton. P200. GN51
Worcester Col. GL57. GL53. GB56.
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INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Anglia. G520. G521. G522. G610.
G670. GK52. GG56. GH57. MG35
Bradford. H620. H621. H622
Coventry. G560. H610
Central England. G520
Cranfield. GN51. GN5C. G610
De Montfort. G5P1. G5N1
Derby. G520. G508. G506. G501
East London. G520
Edge Hill. GP53
Essex. H630. HG6P
Glasgow Caledonian. NF14
Greenwich. G562. G5N1. GN51
Halton Col.*
Heriot-Watt. G520. HG66
Luton. G522. G520
Lincolnshire & Humberside. GN54.
GNND. 15NG. GN55. GT5Y. GR54.
GJ5X
Manchester Met. G521. G528
Middlesex. G560B
Nene Col. G5V4*. G5C9. G5J9.
G5F8. G5H1. G5G4. G5G1
North London. Y100
Northumbria. P200. PR21. PR22.
PR24. P200. G560
Oxford Brookes.*
Staffordshire. Q935. PG45. VG75.
RG45.*
Sunderland. G520. MG35. MG3M
Swansea. G520

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/IT

Bournemouth.*
Bradford. GF51. GG51. GF53
Buckinghamshire Col. G720. G7N5
Canterbury Christ Church Col.
GQ54. GL53. GF57*
Coventry. GR51. GR52*
Cranfield. G610
De Montfort. G560
East London. NG45*
Edge Hill. GL58
Grantham Col. G1GM
Leeds Metropolitan. XG65
Manchester Met. G560. G568. G563
Middlesex. Y400
Newport. BG65
North London. GN5C. Y100
Portsmouth. GL53
Salford. G5N1. G5R1. G5R2. G5T4.
G5Q3
Southampton Inst. G562. G568E
Suffolk. GN51. GN5C. GW5F.*
Sunderland. G560. JN9D
Surrey. GL53
St Mark & St John Col. G5Q1. G5L8.
G5Q3. G5P4
Teesside. G560. GL53

INSTRUMENTATION

Newport. H641. H642

JEWELLERY DESIGN

Central England. WW26. EW26
North East Wales Inst. W660. WN61
Sheffield Hallam. E660

LEATHER TECHNOLOGY

Nene. J430

MANUFACTURING/MANUFACTURING STUDIES/MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS

Bolton Inst. H718. H7ND. H7N1.
H308
Bradford. H705. H706. HH7J.
HH73
Brighton. H710
Bournemouth. H110. H118
Central England. H7N1. H7NC.
HN71. HN7C
East London. H700. H701
Glamorgan. H7N1. HF79
Glasgow Caledonian. H7H6
Grantham Col. H708
Greenwich. HN71. H710
Hertfordshire. H710*
Huddersfield. H751. H601
King's Col. H7N1. HN7C
Kingston. H712. H713. H714
Lincolnshire & Humberside. H712
Liverpool. H7N1
Loughborough. H780
Luton. H710. H711. H765
Manchester Met. H710.*
Middlesex. H7N1B. HN71B. H708B
Northumbria. H718. H711. H7H5
Nottingham. H7R1. H7R2. H7TK.
H7R4. H7R8
Nottingham Trent. H700. H708.
H716
Napier. H710
Newport. H708
Paisley. H7N1. H7NC
Plymouth. H712
Portsmouth. H700. H300. HH37
Queen's. H780
Salford. H700. H712. H7N1. H7TF
Staffordshire. H710
Strathclyde. HN71
Sunderland. H700. H788
Teesside. H7N1. H7NC
UWIC. H7N1
Warwick. H710. H714
Wolverhampton. H710. Y401
Westminster. H710. H718. HN71.
HN11
West of England. H710. H711

MARINE/MARITIME STUDIES/TECHNOLOGY

Aberdeen. K350
Aberystwyth. C174
Bangor. C170. CC17. CF17. F140
Hull. C170. C174. C175
Liverpool John Moores. N910. J603.
J608. F710. N921. J630. J601. J602.
J604
Plymouth. J611. F700. F900. C170.
206J. 219F. 487N. J930. Y408. J612.
J600. N100. 196J
Portsmouth. C170. F912
Queen Mary's Westfield Col. C172
St Andrews.*
Scarborough Uni Col. CD12
Southampton Inst. H350. H358*.
F900. F906*. F910. F918*. J600*.
J608*

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Bolton Inst. H300. H301. HH3T.
HH37. HH3R
Bournemouth. H110. H118. H680.
H688. H762. H768
Bradford. H341. H342. H302. H304
Central England. H300. H308.
H3R1. H3R2. H3RC. H3RF. H3RG.
HH37. HH3R. HR32
City. H300. H301. H302. H305.
H304
Cranfield. H300
Derby. HH37. HHD9
Exeter. H302
Glamorgan. H300. H301. H302.
H700. H701
Glasgow. H300. H3T2. H3TF.
HH37
Glasgow Caledonian. H370
Grantham Col. H308
Greenwich. H308. H108. H300.
H301. H580. H588.
Heriot-Watt. H300. H3J9. H370.
HN71
Hertfordshire. H300*
Huddersfield. H300. H319.
Hull. H300. H301. H302. H701.
H73M
King's Col. H710. H7N1. HH36.
HH6T. HN71. H300
Kingston. H303. H304. H302
Leeds. H300. H3N1
Leicester. H300
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H310. H3J6. H3N1. H3NC. HH37.
HH73
Liverpool John Moores. HH37.
HH7H. H350. H358. H300. H308
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H308. HH3R. HH32
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Northumbria. H300. H308. H301.
003H
Nottingham. HJ35
Nottingham Trent. H300. H308
Oxford Brookes. H300
Paisley. H301. H300
Plymouth. H300
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Queen Mary Westfield Col. H300.
H303. HH35. HH36
Reading. H300. H303. H301
Robert Gordon. H300
Southampton. HH73. HR37*
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H300. H302. H3H4. H3H6. H3J9.
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Sunderland. H300. H308
Surrey. H300. H301.*
Swansea. H300. H301. H302. H303
Teesside. H300
Warwick. H300. H304
Westminster. H771. H300. H771.
H308
West of England. H300. H301

MECHATRONICS

Abertay. Dundee. HH63
Bolton Inst. H303
Central Lancashire. 003H. H308.
H300. 033H
Glamorgan. HH36. HH3P
Hull. HH36. HH3P. HH63
Leeds. HH36
Lincolnshire & Humberside. HH37
Luton. HP64*
Manchester Met. HH36. HH3P
Middlesex. HH63B
Northumbria. HH36. 63HH
Nottingham Trent. HH36
Salford. HH6H
Sheffield Hallam. HH63
Staffordshire. HH36
Sunderland. HH63
Sussex. H3H6. HH76
Swansea. HH36
UWIC. H6B8
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MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

Anglia. HM63
Bournemouth. H620. H261
Central England. P410. P418
City. G610. G618
De Montfort. HP64
Essex. H627
Glamorgan P415. G500. P410.
Greenwich. G503. P430
Heriot-Watt. HH5Q
Kent. H620
Kingston. JW93
Leeds Metropolitan. H682. H620.
HP64H
Oxford Brookes.*
Paisley. HP64
Plymouth. GW59. H620
Queen Mary Westfield Col. H626
Salford. H685
Southampton Inst. P430. P308R.
P438R
Staffordshire. J900
Sunderland. G700. PP34. PP3K.
H620. H628. PP3K
Swansea Inst. PG45
Teesside. H620. G540
Westminster. GP54
West of England. HW63
Wolverhampton. E420. P420

MINING/MINING ENGINEERING

Exeter. J100. J101.
Leeds. J100
Nottingham. J125

MOTOR VEHICLE STUDIES

Greenwich. H3N1

NAVAL ARCHITECTURE

Glasgow. J625
Strathclyde. J621. J600. J610

PRODUCT DESIGN

Abertay. H770. H772
Bournemouth. H770. H771. W230.
W231
Brighton. H770
Brunel. H772.
Buckinghamshire. H7W2. H7ND.
H7N5. H770
Central England. H770. H778
Central Lancashire. H771. H778
Coventry. H770. H680
Derby. H221
East London. H764. H765
Glamorgan. E230. W2H3. H770.
H3W2
Halton Col.*
Hertfordshire. E772. H772. E290.
W290
Huddersfield. HW72
Liverpool John Moores. WH17
Loughborough. H770
Luton. W231. E231
Middlesex. W230B
Nene Col. HW72. EW72
Oxford Brookes. H160
Robert Gordon. N980
Southampton. W2N5. W2NML.
W2NMK
South Bank. HR72. CH87. HR74
Staffordshire. H771
Strathclyde. H770
Suffolk. H770. HC71.*
Sunderland. HN71. HW72. HN7D.
HN7C
Swansea. H770
Swansea Inst. H770
UWIC. HW12
Westminster. H770. H778
Wolverhampton. HW72. EW72

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Huddersfield. H3N9
London Guildhall. Y400
Nottingham. H711. H7RC. H7RF.
H7T4. H7RK. H7RV

PRODUCT INNOVATION/ENGINEERING PRODUCT INNOVATION

Derby. H770
Hertfordshire. H700. H708
Wolverhampton. H700

PRODUCT MANUFACTURE

Brighton. K251
Wolverhampton. H760

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Bournemouth. H110. H118
De Montfort. NN18. N800
Greenwich. K241. N810
Kingston. K450. K2N8
Luton. KN2K. K201. KN2C. KK4G.
KM2C
Paisley. K201
Portsmouth. N830
Staffordshire. K200. K2N1. K2R1.
K2F8. K2R2. K2R4

REMOTE SENSING/SENSORS

Bath Col. P644
Greenwich. GF58. GF5V

ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION

Hull. H651
Plymouth. H650

SHIP SCIENCE

Southampton. J640

SILVERSMITHING

London Guildhall. E240

SPATIAL DESIGN

London Guildhall. Y400

SURVEYING

Abertay. Dundee. K280
Anglia. K450
Bolton Inst. K280
Central England. K280
Central Lancashire. K280
East London. 462H. H264
Exeter. J151
Glamorgan. J152
Grantham Col. H26H
Halton Col.*
Kingston. K280
Leeds Metropolitan. K280
Luton. F865
Napier. K450. K280
Nene Col. K280
Northumbria. KK24. K460. 064K
Nottingham Trent. H260. H268.
N810. K468
Staffordshire. K280. N810
Westminster. K280
West of England. K280

SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

Bournemouth. C878. C879. G520
Nottingham Trent. GH51
West of England. G710

SYSTEMS MODELLING

Central England. H641

TECHNOLOGY

Anglia. HN6C. HP6H. HR6C. HR6F.
HR6H. HW6H. HR6K. HC6C.
HB6X. HF6C. HGPM. HD6F. HF6V.
HF6P. HW65. H606. HG6C. HFPH.
HFPN. HG6M
Bournemouth. H110. H118. H680.
H688. H762. H768
Bradford. JN9C. JN91
Central England. J9N1
Central Lancashire. J918
Derby. J9NC. J9N1. J9N5
East London. J900. J908. JX99.
JT92. JP94. H94. JN9D
Glamorgan P410. H8N1. FJ99
Greenwich. J000
Huddersfield. H6P4. GG57. H100
Leeds. H810
Leeds Met. H700
Lincolnshire & Humberside. NJ49.
NJ19. 065G
Liverpool John Moores. HN71.
HN7C
London Guildhall. J5H6
Luton. HH17. H168
Middlesex. Y400
Moray House Inst. JX97
Paisley. JN91
Portsmouth. N126
Robert Gordon. JN91
Salisbury Col.*
Southampton Inst. J9N1. J9CE.
J9NCH. J9NCL. J9NCK
South Bank. JR94
Staffordshire. H670. J675.*
Strathclyde. HN19. J9X7
Sunderland. JN91. G568
UWIC. 112D
Trinity Col. Carmarthen. XJ59

TEXTILES/TEXTILE ART/STUDIES

Bolton Inst. J461. JW42. JW4F.
JN41. JN4C. JN45. JN4M
Bradford & Ilkley Col. E220
Bretton Hall. E225
De Montfort. J461. 164J
Derby. W220. E220
Huddersfield. JW42. J461
Leeds. J461. J460. J4N1. WJ24
London Guildhall. Y400
Middlesex. E221C
UMIST. J4TY. J4NC. JJ49. JJ94.
J4ND. J4TX

THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

Bournemouth. H770. H771. W230.
W231
De Montfort. W260
London Guildhall. Y400
Manchester Met. W320
Northumbria. E230. E260. EJ29

TOPOLOGRAPHIC SCIENCE

Glasgow. F862
Swansea. GF58. GF18

TRANSPORT

Aston. N920. N921
Bournemouth. 239F
Huddersfield. NW92
Liverpool John Moores. N920
Loughborough. N920
Napier. N99. N922
Oxford Brookes.*
Southampton.*
Staffordshire. J930. N920
Swansea Inst. N921

TWO DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

Staffordshire. W202. E202

VISION SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Bournemouth. H770. H771. W230.
W231
Hull. H655

WOOD/WOOD SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

Bangor. D320

YACHT DESIGN/MANUFACTURING/MANAGEMENT/OPERATION

Southampton Inst. J610. J618*.

RUGBY UNION

Widnes serve injunction to block Devereux

By Christopher Irvine

SALE were served yesterday with an injunction by Widnes Vikings Rugby League club, which seeks to prevent them from playing John Devereux, the dual-code Wales international centre, who they signed as a free agent but who Widnes insist is under contract with them until 1999.

Devereux will be absent from Sale's opening match in the Allied Dunbar Premiership on Sunday, not because of instructions by the club's lawyers, but because of a broken nose. He will miss at least the first two weeks of the new season.

Without satisfactory compensation, Widnes are unlikely to drop their action. Devereux, 31, was restricted by injury to only a handful of appearance for Sale last season. He joined on a short-term contract and returned to Widnes for the rugby league season. A broken ankle has meant that he has not played since switching back. Devereux has since sought a full-time return to union, eight years after he left Bridgend for Widnes.

"Sale have indicated to us that they have signed him on the understanding that he was free to do so, but that is not the situation," Tony Chambers, the Widnes chairman, said.

According to Sale, Widnes were in breach of the player's contract because of non-payment and he was thus a free agent. Because of the delay in Devereux's fitness, there is time to resolve the problem, one of several that Sale, last season's beaten Pilkington Cup finalists, face on the eve of the new Premiership season.

The sight that will greet Saracens, the visitors to Heywood Road for the opening match, will be that of a building site. The main stand has been pulled down with confusion as to exactly when a new one will replace it. Estimates range from next month to December and complications have arisen with the discovery of a Victorian culvert that needs to be filled in.

The only seating for Sunday's match and the foreseeable future will be a temporary stand for 1,300 opposite the clubhouse. Sale's capacity of 7,500 when the work is eventually completed will be less than half that until the European Conference fixture against Newport on September 20, which is the optimistic forecast of Howard Thomas, the Sale chief executive.

Sale's unidentified financial backers have furnished the club with little in the way of high-profile recruits this summer. Shane Howarth is the third New Zealander to join. Howarth is an English passport-holder and has experienced none of the recurring difficulties regarding work permits encountered by John Mitchell, the player-coach, and Simon Mannix.

Mitchell, now that he is set to remain at Sale, hopes to concentrate this season on his coaching role. However, with John Fowler unlikely to be available until after Christmas and Charlie Vyvyan only just back in training after a broken ankle sustained against Leicester in May, Sale's pack, albeit reinforced by the arrival of Chris Murphy, from West Hartlepool, in the second row and the temporary one of Graham Dawe, from Bath, as cover at hooker, might yet end up calling on Mitchell sooner rather than later.

Yesterday, Mitchell met Sale officials to discuss a four-year extension to his contract. The club, despite a reported six-figure offer, was alarmed at his possible disappearance to Northampton, but with Ian McGeechan ruling himself out of the England coaching job, there would appear to be no vacancy at Franklins Gardens.

Rush, who made nine appearances for the All Blacks, is awaiting clearance from New Zealand to join Leicester

Leicester in chase to sign Rush

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

LEICESTER, who have already plunged south of the equator for three of their signings this summer, are seeking to confirm a fourth before the Allied Dunbar Premiership begins on Saturday. They have registered Eric Rush, the New Zealand wing, but must wait to see whether the New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU) will release him from his contract before being sure of their man.

Rush, 32, is keen to take up a two-year contract at Welford Road in the belief that his days with the All Blacks — he made nine international appearances, most recently against South Africa as a replacement in Christchurch last year — are over. However, like several of his colleagues who agreed comparatively long-term contracts with the NZRFU, he needs to terminate one before taking up another.

Rush's attributes are such that, when he discovered that he was unlikely to win international honours as a flank forward, he turned himself, effectively, into a wing and was a member of the New Zealand squad which reached the 1995 World Cup final. His enduring reputation will be as a sevens player, however, and, given that Leicester have already acquired the Fijian talents of Waisale Serevi and Marika Vunibaka (who has yet to receive a work permit), they would be a serious force in the abbreviated game if Rush joined them.

He played against England for the Barbarians at Twickenham in 1990, a match in which he was joined in the back row by Neil Back, the Leicester flanker. Indeed, Rush has been a popular selection for the Barbarians and at one time flirted with Ireland, for whom he has qualifications.

Clubs other than Leicester are waiting for similar contractual clearances from southern-hemisphere unions, among them Saracens, who hope to announce a new signing shortly. If Rush does go to Leicester, it will not be until North Harbour have completed their national provincial championship fixtures in New Zealand in mid-October.

☐ Ieuan Evans, the Wales wing, who began training with his new team-mates at Bath yesterday, said that he will decide in the next few weeks whether or not to retire from international rugby. The wing, capped a record 71 times by his country and a British Isles tour member on three occasions, will tell the Welsh Rugby Union of his decision when he returns from a three-week honeymoon. Evans, 33, says he is unsure whether he still has the appetite left to continue playing for Wales.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Counties to air their views on blueprint

COUNTIES will be given the chance to air their views on Lord MacLaurin's new blueprint for English cricket on September 2. A special meeting of the First Class Forum has been called for that date, initiated by the Somerset chief executive, Peter Anderson, and backed by Northamptonshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Leicestershire and Sussex.

The agreement of six clubs was required under the First Class Counties' constitution to call such a gathering. The counties will have the chance to give their response to the "Raising the Standard" document, which was unveiled earlier this month, and called for a three-group county championship, two-division one-day league with promotion and relegation, plus other moves designed to improve the international profile of England cricket.

Free tickets offer

ATHLETICS: Angry spectators upset by Michael Johnson's Crystal Palace walkout were offered a consolation yesterday of free tickets to the farewell performance of Sally Gunnell, the former world and Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, at Tyneside on September 7. Johnson finished fifth in the 200 metres at the Spar British Challenge on Sunday and failed to appear for the 4 x 400 metres relay.

Block on transfers

FOOTBALL: Paris Saint-Germain were handed a 3-0 defeat by Uefa for fielding a suspended player in their European Cup tie against Steaua Bucharest last Wednesday. European football's ruling body amended the result after it emerged that PSG had fielded a suspended player, Laurent Fournier, in the second qualifying round, first-leg match in Bucharest, which Steaua won 3-2.

Leonard stays put

RUGBY UNION: Harlequins have quashed speculation that Jason Leonard, their England and British Lions prop, is about to rejoin Saracens. Donald Kerr, the club's acting chief executive, said: "We have received no offers from Saracens. Jason still has two years of his contract remaining and there's no doubt that he is staying."

Cartwright comeback

TENNIS: Laura Cartwright, the top seed, proved her return to fitness with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Danielle Hook, of Lancashire, in the first round of the national under-18 championships in Nottingham yesterday. Cartwright had suffered a serious Achilles tendon injury and a fractured foot during the past 12 months.

Doohan decides soon

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan will decide this month whether to stay with the Repsol Honda team or accept an offer to join Yamaha. The Australian clinched the 500cc world championship for the fourth successive year on Sunday when he won the British Grand Prix at Donington Park, his tenth victory in 11 races this season.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European under-21 championship

Qualifying group seven

Turkey v Wales (at Ali Sami Yen Stadium, Istanbul, 6.30)

Group eight

Ireland v Lithuania (at Dalymount Park)

Scottish Coca-Cola Cup

Third round

Dundee v Aberdeen
Raith v Hearts (7.45)
Rangers v Falkirk (7.45)
St Johnstone v Celtic (7.45)

Vauxhall Conference

Cheltenham v Hayes (7.45)
Leek v Southport (7.45)
Slough v Dover (7.45)
Telford v Stalybridge (7.45)
Welling v Woking (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v St Leonards (7.45), Atherstone v Worcester City; Bromsgrove Rovers v Bath City (7.45), Burton Albion v King's Lynn; Cambridge City v Tamworth, Dorchester Town v Forest Green (7.45), Gresley Rovers v Halesowen Hastings v Sittingbourne; Merthyr v Salisbury; Rothwell v Nuneaton Borough (7.45) Midland division: Bilston v Shepshed Dynamo; Blakenhall v Ilkeston; Grantham v Paget R, Stafford v Redditch, Sutton Coldfield Town v Evesham. Southern division: Cinderford v Weston-super-Mare, Cirencester Town v Yate; Clevedon v Newport AFC; Fleet Town v Erith and Belvedere; Tonbridge Angels v Chelmsford, Trowbridge v Weymouth; Waterlooville v Bashley

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Aylesbury; Bishop's Stortford v Dagenham and Redbridge; Bromley v Walton and Hersham; Carshalton v Yeading; Enfield v Dulwich, Gravesend and Northfleet v Hendon (7.45), Heybridge v Oxford City, Hitchin v Kingstonian, St Albans v Chesham. First division: Abingdon Town v Leatherhead; Berkhamstead Town v Billericay Chertsey v Wokingham, Grays v Croydon, Hampton v Staines, Romford v Uxbridge, Thame United v Barton Rovers, Wembley v Whyteleafe, Worthing v Aldershot Town Second division: Barking v Braintree, Bedford Town v Marlow Canvey Island v Tooting and Mitcham; Egham v Wivenhoe; Horsham v Cheshunt Hungerford v Banstead; Metropolitan Police v Tilbury; Northwood v Bracknell, Wealdstone v Leighton Town; Witham v Chalfont St Peter Third division: Aveley v Lewes, Clapton v Epsom and Ewell; Dorking v Corinthian-Casuals, Flackwell Heath v East Thurrock; Hemel Hempstead v Harlow; Hertford v Kingsbury Ware v Croydon

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Portsmouth (2.0). Crystal Palace v Watford (at Plough Lane, 2.0) Millwall v West Ham United (2.0)

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Wolverhampton v Port Vale (7.0)

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Welshpool.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Folkestone Invicta v Swanley Furness; Corinthian v Lordswood Ramsgate v Chatham, Slade Green v Deal, Tunbridge Wells v Hythe; Whitstable Town v Sheppey

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Peacehaven and Telscombe v Eastbourne Town, Ringmer v Langney Sports; Selsey v Littlehampton; Shoreham v Whitehawk; Wick v Portfield, Hailsham v Burgess Hill

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Taunton Town. Calne Town v Westbury United, Elmore v Bridgwater, Mangotsfield United v Mangham Town, Paulton Rovers v Backwell United

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Senior Division: Ampthill v Biggleswade, Holmer Green v Risborough; The 61 F C v Caddington, Yaxal v Shillington, New Bradwell v Mercedes Benz, Tring v Leverstock Green, Winslow v Stony Stratford

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coleshill v Alvechurch; David Lloyd A F C v Cheslyn Hay, Highgate v Continental Star; Knowle v Kenilworth; Southam v Wellesbourne

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon v Burnham, Bicester v North Leigh; Carterton v Banbury

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES: Premier division: Ash v Ashford; Bedfont v Cove, Cobham v Chessington and Hook, Chipstead v Walton Casuals; Raynes Park Vale v Netherne Reading Town v Hanley Wintney Viking Sports v Westfield

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Chadderton; Burscough v Blackpool Rovers Darwen v Mossley, Haslingden v Glossop North End; Rossendale v Salford; Vauxhall G M v Nantwich Town; Warrington v Newcastle Town

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Andover v Downton; B.A.T v Aerostructures, Bemerton Heath Harlequins v Brockenhurst; Christchurch v Totton; Portsmouth v Ryde Sports, Thatcham Town v Bournemouth Wimborne Town v Gosport

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Desborough v Stamford; Ford Sports v N Spencer Holbeach v Bourne; Long Buckby v Kempston; M Blackstone v Boston, Potton v W Borough, St Neots v Yaxley, S and L Corby v Stotfold, Wootton v Buckingham

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Bloxwich Town v Pershore T, Boldmere St M v Rushall O, Kings Norton v Sandwell; Knypersley V v Stapenhill Oldbury v Halesowen H, Pelsall V v West Midlands Police; Rocester v Chasetown Stratford Town V Willenhall, Wednesfield v Bridgnorth.

CRICKET

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of two) Ipswich School: Suffolk v Hertfordshire (first day of two) Truro: Cornwall v Herefordshire Brewood: Staffordshire v Lincolnshire

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: EMBA national championships (at Worthing)

SPEEDWAY: Amateur League: St Austell v Ryde (IoW) (7.30)

TENNIS: Satellite tournament (in Havant)

FOOTBALL

Wilkinson drills youngsters with academic values

OLIVER HOLT

Football Correspondent

He looked slightly lugubrious, as he always does, chomping on a few neatly-cut sandwiches, teasing them around his mouth as he answered questions, but football's philosopher king was radiating as much happiness as he is able to do: for the first time since he was sacked as Leeds United manager last season, Howard Wilkinson was, yesterday, back in charge of a team.

Wilkinson, who has been the technical director of the Football Association since January, was in full flow at the National Sports Centre in Lilleshall after his first session in charge of the England Under-18 team. The building in which his press conference was held was the National Centre for Rehabilitation, a sign said outside, and Wilkinson did his best to live up to the billing.

He has got the best of both worlds now, after all, a tracksuit job and a chance to indulge the administrative side of his personality that always hovered just below the surface at Leeds. Many have been surprised at how intelligent and far-reaching his proposals for the future of the game have been; his glorious eccentricities, the metaphors and similes that he digs up, make what could be dull topics appear enthralling.

Of course he was pleased to be back in a tracksuit, he said, after he had put young players such as Matthew Upson, of Arsenal, and Michael Owen, of Liverpool, through their paces. He compared it to the pleasure of playing a round of golf after the endless rounds of planning meetings and reports that he has become embroiled in since he took over as technical director.

Yet the administrator, the ideas man, who has made it a mission to improve the structure of the national game, especially at youth level, quickly came to the fore and, with him, the full gamut of his thoughts, spilling out like a stream of consciousness in a Virginia Woolf novel.

"I have not had time for withdrawal symptoms from coaching," Wilkinson said. "I had to produce a report and do that as quickly as possible. At the same time, I had to find my way around a very, very different organisation to the ones I had been used to, but I had already made the decision at the start that I would be in charge of one of the teams.

"You always teach better for the benefit of experience and, if you are away from the experience of coaching for a long time, it either becomes burnished in gold or shrouded in black. I knew I was not going to be dealing with players as much when I took the job, so it is no use me bleating about it now. Anyway, it was really the generals who shaped history. It was the soldiers who cleaned up, mopped up and shot up but it was the generals who shaped history thereafter."

From there, Wilkinson went back to the subject that seems to be closest to his heart and one that he talked about extensively when he first outlined his proposals in May — the establishment of soccer academies attached to individual clubs to oversee the development of players from the ages of eight to 21.

Wilkinson said that their creation would bring into being a new breed of professionals, coaches who would require much more comprehensive qualifications than those possessed now. He said he hoped that would eradicate the present situation, in which 50 per cent of youth staff at FA Premier League clubs had changed over the past year.

"For some of these people, they just use the youth system as a step into football," Wilkinson said. "For some, it is a job to give a mate. Some are just desperate for the money and for others it is a whim. The victims are the players and in this case the victims are about as innocent as you can get: the kids.

"These academies are going to become more and more important. Sir John Hall [the Newcastle United owner] told me last week that in ten years' time he would like to see 11 Geordies running out at St James' Park in the Premier League. Circumstances have come together to produce the situation we have got with so many overseas players, but the foreigners will go somewhere else one day and then we will need the academies."

Wilkinson said that because he had been able to stand back from the game for a brief period, he had been able to glimpse the "bigger, better, clearer picture", that he had been able to learn from the youth systems pursued in Holland and Norway, even from the street academies in Soweto, where children play without the inhibition of organised, competitive matches, and the English system suffered in comparison.

"It is Chinese philosophy that says it best," Wilkinson said. "Education is like rowing up a stream: if you stand still, you go backwards."

☐ Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, goes into hospital today for an ankle operation. Robson has suffered wear and tear over the years and a surgeon has advised that he has an operation. He still aims to take charge for the home match with Stoke City on Saturday.

'Their creation will bring into being a new breed of soccer professionals'

MIKE SCOTT

Wilkinson puts on his thinking cap to resume coaching duties with the England Under-18 team at Lilleshall yesterday

O'Neill out of Lithuania game

By Russell Kempson

KEITH O'NEILL, the Norwich City forward, will miss Ireland's group eight World Cup qualifying match against Lithuania in Dublin tomorrow night. He has been ruled out because of back and hamstring injuries.

O'Neill, 21, would have partnered David Connolly, Feyenoord's former Watford striker, in a tie that Ireland have to win to stand a chance of finishing runners-up to Romania, the expected group winners. They would then progress to a two-legged play-off for a place in the finals in France next year.

Niall Quinn, the Sunderland striker, will replace O'Neill. "I spoke to Keith on the phone and it's bad news, a real blow," Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, said yesterday. "At least Niall is now back with us and from what I've seen of him in matches and in training, he looks as fit as ever."

Quinn, 30, who scored for Sunderland in their 3-1 victory against Manchester City, his former club, on Friday, has not played an international match for more than a year. He has had to undergo three operations to repair a damaged cruciate knee ligament.

"I'm just glad to be back in the Irish squad," he said. "I've missed it badly and it's wonderful to be involved again, whether I play or not. I'd love to help the team get to the finals of another World Cup and I just hope my injury problems are now out of the way."

Mark Kennedy, the Liverpool winger, is hoping to use the game at Lansdowne Road to advertise his ability to prospective employers. He has asked for a transfer, after failing to gain a regular first-team place at Anfield, and Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, is likely to renew his interest.

"Wimbledon are a very good team who play the kind of game that should suit me," Kennedy said. "I'm feeling particularly unsettled at the moment. You can imagine how it feels when, week after week, you're not picked."

Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, will make his first appearance of the season today when he plays for the reserves against Portsmouth at Highbury. The England defender underwent surgery on an injured ankle during the summer.

If he comes through unscathed, he should return to the first team for their FA Carling Premiership match at Southampton on Saturday. It would also be welcome news for Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, who is likely to be without Sol Campbell, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, for the World Cup qualifying match against Moldova at Wembley on September 10.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, is still pursuing Piotr Nowak, the Poland and Munich 1860 midfield player. Though Francis is believed to have agreed personal terms with Nowak, 33, his German club is not keen to lose him ahead of their Uefa Cup campaign.

Notts County handed embargo on tranfers

THE Football League has imposed a transfer embargo on Notts County, the early leaders of the Nationwide League third division, after their failure to pay players' signing-on fees.

The money was due to be paid to several members of the squad on July 1 as part of their contracts, but when no money was forthcoming, the players complained to the Professional Footballers' Association.

Geoff Davey, the club's managing director, said: "We're having a difficult time in terms of cash-flow, but we're confident that this is only a short-term situation and not a long-term one."

☐ Shaun Teale is hoping to resurrect his career with the Hong Kong club, Sing Tao, after joining them on a three-month loan from Tranmere. The centre back, 33, was loaned out to Preston last season and has not featured in the first team at the start of the new campaign.

BOWLS

Allcock an early casualty in fours

By David Rhys Jones

TONY ALLCOCK, the world outdoor singles champion, who skipped his Cheltenham quartet to the English Bowling Association (EBA) fours championship in 1994 and won the national indoor triples title, with Richard Shergold and Andy Wills, in March, made a surprise second-round exit from the national fours championship at Worthing yesterday.

Shergold and Wills were with him again, with the quartet completed by Simon Jones, but they were matched wood for wood by an unsung team from Buckden, in Huntingdonshire, who tied the match three times, at 12-12, 15-15 and 17-17, before drawing away in the closing stages to win 27-17.

Mike Lee, Peter Holmes, Bob Price and Robbie Coleman, of Buckden, made the vital breakthrough on the eighteenth end when, at 17-17, they looked likely to drop a count of three or four shots. Coleman's attacking delivery carried the jack through to the ditch for a treble, which put Buckden 20-17 in front.

"We were nervous, but soon settled to a rhythm after taking an early lead," Coleman, 26, said. "After we got that three, Tony was playing catch-up over the last three ends and it was, I must say, a very tricky rink on which to be in trouble."

Among the new favourites for the title are Clevedon and Bridgewater BCL, from Somerset, Erdington Court, from Warwickshire, and Swindon Westleycott, from Wiltshire, all of whom reached the third round. Totnes, who were thought to be in with a good chance, lost to Southwick, a local side, skipped by Terry Stevens.

Huntingdonshire have two teams through — Belvedere, a Peterborough club, who defeated Stenalees, and Banbury Borough — while Cambridgeshire, the only county to have accepted the EBA's invitation to wear coloured shirts, also have two in the third round.

Bridgewater have last year's triple champions on board, while half of Erdington Court's quartet — Robbie Robinson and Richard Brittan — won the pairs' prize in 1992. Roy Hedges, the Clevedon No 2, and Pip Branfield, their No 3, won the triples separately in 1979 and 1984 respectively.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

CRYSTAL PALACE: Spar British Challenge: Men, 100m: 1 D Bailey (International Select) 10 13sec; 2 V Henderson (IS) 10 22; 3 D Chambers (Young Lions) 10 31; 4 I Mackie (GB) 10 34; 5 M Devonish (YL) 10 42; 6 D Marsh (Guest) 10 56; 7 J Livingston (GB) 10 57; 8 D Bobb (Guest) 10 67. Triple jump: 1 F Agyepong (GB) 16 88m; 2 J Edwards (GB) 16 84; 3 J Parman (IS) 16 54; 4 T Brogborgo (YL) 15 90; 5 P Idowu (YL) 15 54; 6 B Wellman (IS) 15 33. 4 x 400m relay: 1 Great Britain (P Black, M Hylton, J Baulch, I Thomas) 3min 00 73sec; 2 International Select (D Clarke, T Wheeler, K Hamden, B Woodward) 3 03 08; 3 Guests (S Inskover, J Hargreaves, J Woody, G Haughton) 3 04 94. Women, 400m: 1 C Freeman (IS) 50 61; 2 A Cutmahey (GB) 51 04; 3 D Fraser (GB) 52 10; 4 G Amadorife (IS) 52 83; 5 M Payne (YL) 52 98; 6 M Thomas (YL) 53 74. 1,500m: 1 P Radcliffe (GB) 4min 07 50sec; 2 J Pavey (GB) 4 07 74; 3 S Gallagher (IS) 4 08 85; 4 H Parry (YL) 4 09 99; 5 R Meagher (IS) 4 09 52; 6 J Mainwaring (YL) 4 19 97. Mixed 4 x 200m relay: 1 International Select (J Campbell, M Frazer, G Sedor, T McCalla) 1min 26 26sec; 2 Great Britain (M Richardson, S Oxley, M Fenn, D Turner) 1 27 29; 3 Great Britain Young Lions (C Murphy, E Ruddock, C Malcolm, M Devonish) 1 29 44. Match result: 1 International Select 193pts; 2 Great Britain 165; 3 Great Britain Young Lions 2070 6½.

SEDBERGH, Cumbria: English World Trophy trial fell races: Men (6 SM 2970 m English championship race 4 of 6): 1, B Burns (South Robin) 54min 22sec; 2, M Brown (Borrowdale) 55 07; 3 C Roberts (Kendal) 56 02. Under-20 (4 SM, 2079m): 1 S Bailey (Staffordshire Moorlands) 40 33; 2, M Clayton (Norwich) 41 20; 3, A Crossland (Longwood) 42 21. Women (4 SM, 2079m, non-championship event): 1 H Heckman (Ilkley) 43 50; 2, S Rowell (Pudsey and Bramley) 47 00; 3 J Hargreaves (Borden) 48 15. Under 20: 1 E Kiff (Bingley) 57 27; 2 C Sanderson (Stockton) 58 32; 3 E O Shea (Leeds) 58 35.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 10 Minnesota 6; Seattle 5 Chicago White Sox 3 (first game); Chicago White Sox 4 Seattle 2 (second game); Toronto 13 Cleveland 5; Detroit 8 Kansas City 4; Baltimore 5 Texas 4 (10 inns); New York Yankees 8 Texas 0; Milwaukee 5 Oakland 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston 11 Philadelphia 8; Colorado 6 New York Mets 4; Chicago Cubs 6 San Diego 5; San Francisco 8 Montreal 6; Florida 10 Pittsburgh 2; Cincinnati 5 Los Angeles 0; St Louis 3 Atlanta 1.

BOWLS

WORTHING, All-England championships: National Club fours: Semi-finals: Desborough Town, Northants bt Greenhill, Dorset 26-25. Rink Scores (Desborough skips first): J Harris bt J Searle 20-19; J Hall bt B Patterson 19-18. Liberty of Havering, Essex bt Hollingbury Park, Sussex 46-29. Rink Scores (Liberty skips first): M Rothon bt R Moses 22-14; W Whiteman bt L Prince 24-15. Final: Desborough Town bt Liberty of Havering 32-31. Rink scores (Desborough skips first): Hall lost to Rothon 18-21; Harris bt Whiteman 14-10.

Men's Fours: First round: Romford (S Pickford) bt Desborough Town, Northants (J Harris) 18-16; Bolton (R Milne) bt Plymouth North Down (G Lawrence) 29-19; Stanwix, Cumbria (T Bowenbank) bt Loughborough (F Spibey) 24-19; Swindon, Westleycot (S Warren) bt Shepherds Bush CC (S Tuohy) 24-15; Chester Road, Worcestershire (L Jones) bt Hickings Lane, Notts (J Farmer) 23-22; Balsham, Cambridgeshire (P Lingham) bt Stony Stratford, Bucks (M Vickers) 23-21; Belvedere Hunts (P Jessop) bt Stenalees, Cornwall (N Stephens) 15-14; Banbury Borough (G Moon Jnr) bt Gateshead (A Thoubboll) 21-11; Lincoln St Giles (D Brown) bt Portsmouth CS (C Hayward) 20-18; Garston, Herts (J Simmons) bt Swanscombe, Kent (R Howell) 23-12; Cranley RBL (M Overington) bt Stroud, Gloucs (D Howes) 26-12; Sandy Town, Beds (D Mahoney) bt Wallsworthy, Dorset (S Brice) 20-13; Clevedon, Somerset (G Luker) bt Whale Rock, Sussex (S Jeapes) 19-11; Shanklin (W Hampton) bt Leominster (F Williamson) 29-15; Bournemouth (C Dowding) bt Kingsthorpe, Northampton (I Walker) 21-18; Scotter, Lincs (R Robinson) bt Cowes Medina (P Dunstan) 21-19; Southwick, Sussex (T Stevens) bt Stenalees 29-18; Totnes, Devon (J Wechram) bt Ealing Conq (J Walsh) 30-5; Ipswich (C Rumsby) bt Marlow (T Davies) 22-14; Cambridge & County (L Kent) bt Bedford Borough (R Brown) 22-11; Rainworth MW, Notts (K Davies) bt Sawbridgeworth, Herts (A Cavedell) 26-4; Witney Town, Oxfordshire (F Dowson) bt Alexandra Park, Dorset (I Beaton) 21-20; Downham, Market Ex Services, Norfolk (A Hull) bt Sherburn, Durham (G Chard) 20-18; Bridgwater SCL (D Fowkes) bt Long Eaton Town (J Barnett) 25-10; Newcastle Summerhill (S Harvey) bt Springhead Park, Hull (M Penny) 21-12; Frazeham (D Crouch) bt Swindon (M Jackson) 20-19; Stoke Coventry, Warwickshire (E Owen) bt Blackheath & Greenwich (P Buschen) 21-15; Measham, Leicestershire (J Bowman) bt Carlisle Esplanade (A Little) 24-22; Cheltenham (T Allcock) bt Droitwich Spa (I Jenkins) 26-8; Buckden, Hunts (R Coleman) bt Bulmer, Herefordshire (R Perry) 25-7.

ILLANDRINDOD WELLS: Welsh Association national championships: Inter-county championship: Final: Vale of Glamorgan bt South Glamorgan 125-114.

CRICKET

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: First day of two. Exmouth: Devon 243 (A J Pugh 54, K E Cooper 4-70) and 10-2. Herefordshire 145 (P M Roebuck 4-17, K Donohue 4-27). Camborne, Wales 248-9 (A J Jones 97, C E Shreck 4-42). Cornwall 83 (A D Towse 4-24, P D North 4-25) and 22-1. Barrow: Northumberland 208-4 (P J Nicholson 100 not out, T W Adcock 75) and 4-0; Cumberland 224-7 (S J O'Shaughnessy 51 not out).

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LEAGUE: Littleborough 157 Milnrow 158-9; Werneth 217-9 Oldham 107; Radcliffe 161 Heywood 164-7; Norden 144 Rochdale 148-9; Middleton 176-8 Stockport 177-7; Royton 111 Crompton 117-1; Stand 131 Unsworth 132-4; Ashton 179-5 Walsden 183-7.

HERTFORDSHIRE LEAGUE: Welwyn Garden City 206-9 Luton Town 176-9.

APS TWO COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Colchester 176 Halstead 177-9; Copdock and Old 128 Achilles 130-7; Mildenhall 126 Mistley 130-3.

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: African qualifying zone: Group one: Guinea 1 Nigeria 0; (in Conakry). Group four: Togo 1 Angola 1 (in Lomé). Group five: Ghana 0 Sierra Leone 2 (in Obuasi).

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP: Section D: Monaghan Utd 1 Dundalk 6.

GLIDING

LASHAM, Hampshire: National standard class championships: Revised seventh day (210 km quad, all 48 completed): 1 N Wells (LSB) 11 00kph 746pts; 2 P Cheetham (LSB) 110 743; 3, K Barker (LSB) 109 5, 730; 4 T Murphy (LSB) 107 5, 718; 5 G Sangemore (LSB) 107 1, 713. Leading final overall positions: 1 Cheetham 6,080; 2 T Scott (LSB) 6011; 3 S Murch (LSB) 5 854; 4 Barker 5 796; 5 P Sheard (Discus) 5 748; 6 P Brice (LSB) 5 716.

MUSBACH: Germany: European junior club class championships: Seventh day: Standard (259kp poly 33 completions of 371): 1, M Baumann (Switz, Discus) 106 3kph, 782pts; 2 R Schoch (Switz, LS8) 105 1, 781; 3, M Dvok (Slovak, Discus) 103 8, 764; 4, S Kawa (Pol, SZD55) 103 1, 754 equal 5, A Oakington (GB, ASW24) 98 7, 694; 12, D Allison (GB, LS8) 96 4, 662; 37, O Ward (GB, Discus) 139 8km) 163. Club (270km poly 28 completions of 31): 1 J Tomasa (Cz, ASW19) 89 3, 1 000; 2, J Ornstova (Cz, ASW19) 89 5, 999; 3 M Thalauer (Austria, ASW19) 87 4, 918; 4 M Sturm (Ger, Hornet) 86 9, 907; 12, M Babcock (GB, LS4) 93kph, 845; 21 P Musson (GB, Pegasus) 84 1, 773; 22 J Babcock (LS4) 87 5, 763.

GOLF

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan: First of America tournament. Leading final scores (US unless stated, 207): G Morgan 69 67 71 208; B Duval 68 70 70 210; J D Morgan 68 73 69. Other scores: 213: J M Canizares 77 69 67; I Aoki (Japan) 76 67 70; L Trevino 73 70 70. 215: B Barnes 70 77 68. 216: G Player (SA) 74 68 74. 217: A Jacklin (GB) 74 68 75; D Graham (Aus) 73 68 76.

LLANDUDNO: Welsh amateur team championship. Third round: Pyle and Kenfig bt Rhuddlan 3½-1½; Cardiff bt Cardigan 3-2; North Wales bt Pontnewydd 3½-½; Glamorgan bt Prestatyn 3½-½; Newport bt Carmarthen 3-2; Monmouth bt Tenby 4-1; Creigau bt Colwyn Manor 3-2; Wrexham bt Whitchurch 3½-½.

MOTOR RACING

ELKHART LAKE: Texaco-Havoline indycar race: 1, A Zanardi (It, Reynard Honda) 50laps (192 993mph); 2, M Gugelmin (Br, Reynard-Mercedes); 3, G de Ferran (Br, Reynard-Honda); 4, C Fittipaldi (Br, Swift-Ford); 5, S Pruett (US, Reynard-Ford); 6, B Rahal (US, Reynard-Ford) all same lap. Did not finish: 16, M Blundell (GB, Mercedes) 47 25; D Franchitti (GB, Reynard-Mercedes) 15.

ROWING

OXFORD: City Royal Regatta: Women: Novice sculls: Thames (Evans) bt Reading (McCulloch) 3¼. Mixed: Coxed fours: Thames and Tradesmen bt Falcon 2¾. Eights: Thames Tradesmen bt Lincoln College 4.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford Tigers 25 St Helens 16; Leeds Rhinos 36 London Broncos 8.

ACADEMY CHAMPIONSHIP: Castleford 2 St Helens 20; Leeds 30 London 20 (Leeds are champions).

AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Brisbane Broncos 34 Hunter Mariners 16.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Leicester 31 Caledonia Reds 29.

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Biarritz 11 Toulouse 23; Dax 39 Brive 17; Bezers 3 Narbonne 19; Nice 15 Montferrand 14; Colomiers 29 La Rochelle 12. Pool two: Montpellier 19 Stade Français 33; Toulon 23 Bourgoin 21; Castres 37 Agen 26; Grenoble 26 Pau 26; Perpignan 20 Bègles-Bordeaux 2.

SHOOTING

BISLEY: NSRA Pistol championships: Free pistol, 1 W Gault 682; 2 S Preston 661; 3 S Fitzhugh 667. Rapid-fire pistol: 1 D Craven 570; 2 H Hunter 569; 3 P Clark 568. Standard pistol, 1 D Levene 566; 2 P Dunsworth 565; 3 Preston 565. Grand aggregate class X: 1 Gault 970; 2, Smith 934; 3 P Leatherdale 934. Air pistol: 1 Preston 569; 2 Leatherdale 568; 3, P Flippant 567. Standard handgun: 1 Leatherdale 566; 2 Flippant 575; 3, Smith 572. Veterans: 1 P Oram 180; 2, L Antal 179; 3 G Jones 177. Centre fire: 1, Flippant 565; 2, Gault 561; 3 D Ward 571. Women's sports pistol: 1 C Senior 563; 2 B Young 553; 3 B Barber 557. Home Countries International: Men: 1 England 749; 2, Jersey 727; 3, Northern Ireland 713; 4, Scotland 709. Ladies: 1 England 362; 2 Jersey 348; 3 Guernsey 293.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Belle Vue 44 Edinburgh 22.

SQUASH

LAHTI, Finland: World Games: Men: Third place play-off: G Parry (Can) bt M Carns (Eng) 10-8, 9-1, 9-0. Final: A Barada (Egypt) bt D Pearce (Aus) 9-4, 9-3, 9-4. Women: Third place play-off: J Dyson (NZ) bt S Wright (Eng) 9-4, 10-9, 9-2. Final: S Fitz-Gerald (Austria) bt S Schoch (Ger) 9-2, 9-6, 9-7.

SWIMMING

SEVILLE: European championships. Men's highboard diving final: 1 J Hempel (Ger) 605 45pts; 2, Mongin (Ukr) 600 48; 3 H Meyer (Ger) 571 44. Breast: B L Taylor 314 42; 11 P Akersteed 297 76.

TENNIS

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut: Men's tournament: Final: V Kafelnikov (Russ) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7-6, 6-4.

INDIANAPOLIS: Men's tournament: Final: J Eltingh (Neth) bt C Moya (Sp) 6-3, 7-6.

TORONTO: Women's tournament: Final: M Seles (US) bt A Huber (Ger) 6-2, 6-4.

HAVANT: LTA Men's Summer satellite tournament: First round: D Lloyd (GB) bt A Foster (GB) 6-3, 6-2; nr A Fowler (Aus) bt M Menzies (Ger) 6-1, 6-1; D Freelove (GB) bt V Venkataramani (India) 2-6, 7-5, 6-4; D Roberts (GB) bt S Moore (GB) 6-1, 5-7, 6-1; G Hartouy (India) bt M White (SA) 6-3, 6-3.

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday, August 23

Coupon No before forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Blackburn v Liverpool 1
2 Coventry v Bolton 2
3 Everton v West Ham X
4 Leeds v Crystal Palace 1
5 Leicester v Man Utd X
6 Newcastle v A Villa 1
7 Southport v Arsenal 2
8 Tottenham v Derby X
9 Wimbledon v Sheff W 1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

10 Birmingham v Reading 1
11 Bradford v Ipswich 2
12 Bury v Charlton 2
13 Huddersfield v Stoke 1
14 Norwich v Crewe 1
15 Oxford Utd v Notts F 2
16 Port Vale v Sunderland 2
17 QPR v Sheffield 1
18 Sheff U v Portsmouth X
19 Swindon v Middlesbro X

SECOND DIVISION

20 Blackpool v Wrexham 1
21 Bristol R v Carlisle 1
22 Chesterfield v Preston 2
23 Fulham v Luton 1
24 Gillingham v Walsall 2
25 Grimsby v Wrexham X
26 Millwall v York 1
27 Northampton v Bristol C X
28 Oldham v Bournemouth 1
29 Southend v Burnley 1
30 Watford v Brentford 1
31 Wigan v Plymouth 1

THIRD DIVISION

32 Chester v Carlisle Utd 2
33 Exeter v Darlington 1
34 Leyton O v Rochdale 1
35 Macclesfield v Doncaster 1
36 Mansfield v Cardiff 2
37 Notts County v Lincoln 1
38 Peterborough v Hull 1
39 Rotherham v Hartlepool X

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

40 Aberdeen v Motherwell 1
41 Dunfermline v Hearts X
42 Hibernian v Kilmarnock 1
43 Rangers v Dundee Utd 1
44 St Johnstone v Celtic 2

FIRST DIVISION

45 Airdrie v Falkirk 1
46 Ayr v Partick 2
47 Dundee v St Mirren 1
48 Hamilton v Raith X
49 Stirling v Greenock M 1

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Everton, Leicester, Tottenham, Sheff Utd, Swindon, Grimsby, Northampton, Rotherham, Dunfermline, Hamilton.

BEST DRAWS: Leicester, Tottenham, Swindon, Northampton, Rotherham.

AWAYS: Bolton, Arsenal, Charlton, Nottingham Forest, Sunderland.

HOMES: Leeds, Wimbledon, Birmingham, Middlesbro, QPR, Watford, Wigan, Leyton Orient, Peterborough.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Wimbledon, Birmingham, QPR, Watford, Leyton Orient. Aways: Arsenal, Charlton, Nottingham Forest. Draws: Tottenham, Northampton, Rotherham.

Vince Wright

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

The following hand cropped up in the Berks & Bucks Team of Eight League.

Dealer West — East-West game — IMPs

North: ♠10 9 8 4 ♥Q 9 8 4 ♦K Q J 2 ♣10

West: ♠A 8 ♥2 ♦6 3 ♣A Q 9 8 6 5 3 2

East: ♠J ♥J 10 7 3 ♦A 10 8 7 ♣K J 7 4

South: ♠K Q 6 7 3 2 ♥A K 6 5 ♦9 8 4 ♣—

S	W	N	E
–	1 C	Pass	1 H
2 S	3 C	4 S	5 C
Pass	Pass	5 S	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Contract: Five Spades Doubled, by South. Lead: two of hearts.

The two of hearts lead went to the nine, ten and king. When declarer played the king of spades West won and had to decide how to put his partner in so he could get a heart ruff. After some thought he tried the two of clubs but when East played the king declarer ruffed and drew the last trump. A diamond to the king and a second top diamond followed which East won to return the ten of diamonds. Declarer cashed two more spades and when she led the last one the position in the red suits was:

North: ♥Q 8 ♦2

West: ♥– ♦–

East: ♥J 7 3 ♦7

South: ♥K 6 5 ♦–

East has yet to play. A diamond discard establishes dummy's two whilst a heart allows declarer to play a heart to the queen and then back to his king and six. Contract made.

☐ The Swiss Pairs at the EBU Summer Congress in Brighton attracted a record-breaking entry of 317 tables. Leading the field with 77.86% were Ferdy Waluwan and Denny Sacul, regular members of the Indonesian open team. Runners-up were Britain's Glyn Liggins and Andrew Dyson.]

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, call the organisers on 0181 942 9506.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Sadler's success

The key game which enabled grandmaster Matthew Sadler to tie for first prize in the British championship play-off was his win against Tony Miles. Black snatched a hot pawn but later succumbed to a deadly pin.

White: Matthew Sadler
Black: Tony Miles
Smith & Williamson British championship play-off
August 1997

French Defence

1	d4	e6
2	e4	d5
3	Nd2	dxe4
4	Nxe4	Nd7
5	Bd3	Ngf6
6	Qe2	c5
7	Ndf6+	Nxf6
8	dxc5	Bxc5
9	Bd2	0-0
10	0-0-0	Qc5
11	Bc3	Qg5+
12	Kb1	Nd5
13	Be5	Qxg2
14	Qh5	f5
15	Nf3	Qg4
16	Rhg1	Qxh5
17	Rxg7+	Kh8
18	Rg5+	Nf6
19	Rxh5	Bxf2
20	Rd2	Be3
21	Rg2	Bd7
22	Ng5	Rfg5
23	Rgxg5	Rf7
24	Rh6	Raf8
25	a3	Bc6
26	Bc4	Bd7
27	a4	a6
28	a5	Bc8
29	Kb2	Bd7
30	Rgg6	Bc8
31	Bxf6+	Rxf6
32	Rxf6	Rxf6
33	Rxf6	Kg7
34	Rxe6	Bxe6
35	Bxe5	f4
36	Bc5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Mind Sports Olympiad

The Mind Sports Olympiad at London's Royal Festival Hall enters its second day today. Over 1,400 competitors are competing for £100,000 in prize money. The events which have attracted the greatest number of entrants are *The Times* crossword championship with 392, chess with 162, Countdown with 100, 10 x 10 draughts with 94 and bridge with 87. There will be regular updates in this column on the running totals of gold, silver and bronze medals awarded.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BARD PARTS HOLOFERNES
a. The devil
b. A wrestler
c. A beak

SEBASTIAN
a. A gushing twin
b. A young lover
c. A cowardly knight

CHARMIAN
a. A witch
b. A maid
c. A lover

PANDULPH
a. An innkeeper
b. A possessive father
c. A Cardinal

Answers on page 42

CHESS

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Hellers — Adams, Arhus 1997.

White has allowed his bishop to be captured, thinking that he will maintain material parity after 1 ... Nxc4 2 Qa4+, forking king and knight. What has he missed?

Solution on page 42

RACING: NEWMARKET TRAINER HOLDS STRONG HAND FOR YORK

Bosra Sham to advance Cecil's title prospects

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

WITH the millennium drawing ever nearer, it is worth pondering who has been the outstanding British trainer of the twentieth century — especially as the answer could be determined, to an uncanny degree, by the results during the three-day Ebor meeting, which gets underway at York today.

If the best guide to greatness is the number of times the annual trainers' championship has been won by different handlers, then the shortlist for trainer of the century is easy to assemble. Michael Stoute and Dick Hern have both won the coveted title on four occasions; Fred Darling and Cecil Boyd-Rochfort bagged five apiece, while Frank Butters and Noel Murless each accumulated eight titles.

However, the leading pair are Alec Taylor, the "wizard of Manton" who was champion trainer 11 times between 1907 and 1925, and Henry Cecil, with ten titles to his name. When Bosra Sham won the Champion Stakes last year, Cecil looked sure to equal Taylor's record, only for Saeed bin Suroor and the Godolphin team to fight back and snatch the glory in the dying days of the season.

As Cecil travels north to the Knavesmire today, he knows the results at one of his favourite meetings could enable him to poach a decisive advantage in this year's trainers' championship — and help him to match Taylor's tally.

Although he is at present £110,000 behind John Gosden in the prize-money list, which determines the title, Cecil saddles the likely favourites in four races, including three of the richest and most prestigious.

Cecil's success at York, one of the fairest and best-run courses in the land, is underlined by the record of his runners on the Knavesmire since 1983. From 286 runners, 202 have reached the frame, including 83 winners. Punters blindly backing Cecil horses would be in profit.

Although only four runners go to post for the Juddmonte International Stakes, the day's £250,000-added feature race, all are group one winners and, by definition, top-class performers.

Singspiel, winner of the Japan and Dubai Cups before landing the Coronation Cup in June, could finish only fourth behind Swain in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes. The ground was unsuitably soft that day and today's faster surface will suit, but Michael Stoute's runner had a hard race at Ascot, which may have left its mark.

Benny The Dip, winner of the Dante Stakes over course and distance before landing the Derby, has benefited from a nice break since finishing second to Pilsudski in a falsely-run and controversial Eclipse Stakes, where the riding tactics of Kieren Fallon on Bosra Sham cost him the ride on the Wafic Said-owned filly.

Desert King, the Irish 2,000 Guineas and Irish Derby winner, is clearly an outstanding performer on home soil but has left his best form behind on the two occasions he has raced on these shores. Nonetheless, the Aiden O'Brien-trained runner looks a big danger over his best trip, although the Irish Champion Stakes is his main target.

Cecil was in a bullish mood about Bosra Sham yesterday, despite encountering another setback with the filly's fragile feet last week. "She's fine and would not be running unless she was 100 per cent. She looks very well and there will be no excuses," he said.

With Benny The Dip likely to ensure a reasonable pace, and Pat Eddery replacing Fallon on Bosra Sham, she can justify her trainer's boast to be the best horse he has ever trained and promote Cecil to the top of the trainers' championship.

Away from the gaze of the Channel 4 cameras, the lightly raced and progressive Zerpour makes particular appeal in the Melrose Rated Handicap (4.15).

MARTYN HAYHOW/PA

Bosra Sham is a warm favourite for today's Juddmonte International Stakes

THE TIMES

TIMEKEEPER CLOCKS ON

THE TIMES today introduces Timekeeper, an exclusive service based on speed figures which will help readers pinpoint winners. A fast time is conclusive proof of ability, rather than subjective judgment of form and it is possible to identify a useful horse from a single performance in a small race long before it becomes established as a star.

Timekeepers ratings will appear for the two main meetings each day, with a variable top figure reflecting a horses achievement against the clock.

The figures, compiled by James Willoughby, take into account the going, wind and weight carried against a set of standard times for each distance on each course. The rating will reflect the best performance from the horses last six runs and the top-rated in each race will be highlighted.

YORK

THUNDERER

2.05 CHESTER HOUSE (nap)	3.45 Silver Patriarch
2.35 Double Eclipse	4.15 Sausalito Bay
3.10 Singspiel	4.45 Tiler
	5.15 King Darius

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.35 DOUBLE ECLIPSE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.05 Chester House. 3.10 Bosra Sham. 4.15 HIGH INTRIGUE (nap).

GOING: GOOD
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
SIS

2.05 DEPLOY ACOMB CONDITIONS STAKES C4

(2-Y-O: £15,990: 6f 214yd) (9 runners)

101 (2) 1 JAZZ CLUB 11 (F) (W Farish III) P Cole 9-2 ... Pat Eddery 100
102 (4) 1 CHESTER HOUSE 18 (D,F) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-0 ... K Fallon 103
103 (7) 1 LA-FAAH 24 (S) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 9-0 ... R Hills 71+
104 (3) 1 MR CAHILL 13 (D,F) (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 9-0 ... J Reid 61
105 (6) 1 TEAPOT ROW 17 (G) (Duke of Devonshire) J Toller 9-0 ... S Sanders 107
106 (9) 35 LONE PIPER 20 (S Manana) C Brittain 8-10 ... M Roberts 104
107 (1) 211 MERLIN'S RING 17 (C,D,F) (Mrs R Plummer & Partners) I Balding 8-10 K Darley [illegible]
108 (5) 3 MUTAWWAJ 24 (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-10 ... L Dettori 71+
109 (8) 312 SARATOGA SPRINGS 24 (V,D,G) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien (Ire) 8-10 .. M J Kinane —

BETTING: 7-4 Chester House, 11-2 Jazz Club, 13-2 La-Faah, 7-1 Teapot Row, 8-1 Mr Cahill, Merlin's Ring, Mutawwaj, 12-1 others.

1996: REVOQUE 9-0 J Reid (5-2) P Chapple-Hyam 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Jazz Club beat Hayil 1¾l in 6f Haydock stakes race (good to firm). Chester House highly regarded but inexperienced in beating Just in Time ¾l in 7f Goodwood maiden (good to firm). Likely to improve. La-Faah beat Social Charter ¾l in 6f Ascot maiden (soft) with Mutawwaj (4lb better off) 1¼l 3rd. Mr Cahill beat Dower House 1¼l in 7f Yarmouth stakes race (good to firm). Teapot Row beat Friendly Warning 4l in 6f Newmarket maiden (good). Lone Piper 6¾l 6th to Central Park in 7f group III Goodwood race (good to firm). Merlin's Ring beat Manliez Star neck in 7f Goodwood nursery (good to firm). Saratoga Springs ½l 2nd to Tarascon in 7f Curragh stakes race (good).

CHESTER HOUSE should improve on this galloping track

2.35 WEATHERBYS INSURANCE LONSDALE STAKES C4

(Group III: £24,656: 1m 7f 195yd) (6 runners)

201 (3) 1-41215 CELERIC 42 (CD,F,G) (C Spence) D Morley 5-9-10 ... Pat Eddery 113
202 (2) 10-4410 CORRADINI 19 (C,F,S) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 5-9-1 ... K Fallon 107
203 (4) /111-63 DOUBLE ECLIPSE 19 (CD,F,G,S) (Middleham Park) M Johnston 5-9-1 M Roberts [illegible]
204 (6) 4-63634 ELECTION DAY 19 (V,G,S) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute 5-9-1 ... M J Kinane 130
205 (1) 5-06456 SAMRAAN 19 (F,G,S) (K M Al-Mudhaf) J Dunlop 4-9-1 ... L Dettori 125
206 (5) 11-5211 WINDSOR CASTLE 52 (D,F,S) (Fahd Salman) P Cole 3-8-4 ... S Sanders 116

BETTING: 15-8 Double Eclipse, 2-1 Celeric, 11-2 Windsor Castle, 13-2 Election Day, Samraan, 8-1 Corradini.

1996: CELERIC 4-9-4 W Carson (9-4 fav) D Morley 7 ran

FORM FOCUS *Celeric 7¾l 5th to Shantou over inadequate trip in 1½m group II race at Newmarket (good); previously beat Classic Cliche ¾l in 2½m group I Gold Cup at Royal Ascot (good) with Election Day 1¾l 3rd, Samraan 16l 5th and Double Eclipse (all 9lb better off) 20l 6th.* Double Eclipse 2l 3rd to Double Trigger in 2m group II Goodwood Cup (good to firm) with Election Day 4½l 4th, Samraan *8½l 6th and Corradini (all same terms) a distance last.* Windsor Castle beat Sweetness Herself 1l in 2m Newcastle handicap (soft).

DOUBLE ECLIPSE can take advantage of the 9lb he receives from Celeric

3.10 JUDDMONTE INTERNATIONAL STAKES C4

(Group I: £202,152: 1m 2f 85yd) (4 runners)

301 (2) 121-114 SINGSPIEL 24 (D,F,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 5-9-5 ... L Dettori 123
302 (4) 121-113 BOSRA SHAM 45 (BF,D,F,G,S) (W Said) H Cecil 4-9-2 ... Pat Eddery 121
303 (3) 13-2112 BENNY THE DIP 45 (CD,F,G) (L Knight) J Gosden 3-8-11 ... W Ryan [illegible]
304 (1) 6-21141 DESERT KING 51 (G,S) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien (Ire) 3-8-11 ... M J Kinane 111

BETTING: 10-11 Bosra Sham, 2-1 Singspiel, 11-2 Benny The Dip, 7-1 Desert King.

1996: HALLING 5-9-5 L Dettori (6-4 fav) S bin Suroor 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Singspiel, the Coronation Cup winner, reverts to 1¼m after finishing 4¾l 4th to Swain in 1½m group I King George at Ascot (soft). Benny The Dip, Dante Stakes winner over course and distance before landing the Derby, 1¾l 2nd to Pilsudski in 1¼m Eclipse Stakes at Sandown (good to soft) with Bosra Sham (same terms), unlucky in running, sh hd away 3rd. Desert King beat Dr Johnson 1l in 1½m Irish Derby at Curragh (good to soft).

BOSRA SHAM has the class to outpace this small but select field

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.45 GREAT VOLTIGEUR STAKES C4

(Group II: 3-Y-O: £55,888: 1m 3f 195yd) (5 runners)

401 (5) 0-1410 KINGFISHER MILL 24 (D,G,S) (Lord H De Walden) Mrs J Cecil 8-12 M J Kinane 124
402 (1) 1-03 APPREHENSION 87 (BF,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8-9 ... R Cochrane 122
403 (4) 6-4163 GARUDA 45 (S) (B Oumeyer) J Dunlop 8-9 ... J Reid 107
404 (2) 11-3125 SILVER PATRIARCH 51 (BF,F,G,S) (P Winfield) J Dunlop 8-9 ... Pat Eddery [illegible]
405 (3) 1-21 STOWAWAY 21 (D,F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-9 ... L Dettori 113

BETTING: 6-4 Silver Patriarch, 2-1 Stowaway, 3-1 Kingfisher Mill, 12-1 Apprehension, 14-1 Garuda.

1996: DUSHYANTOR 9-0 Pat Eddery (3-1) H Cecil 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Kingfisher Mill last to Swain in 1½m King George at Ascot (soft), but previously beat Pairo Sky 3l in 1½m group II stakes at Ascot (good to soft). Garuda 2¾l 3rd to Ivan Luis in 1½m listed Haydock stakes (good). Silver Patriarch disappointed when 13l 5th to Desert King in 1½m Irish Derby at Curragh (good to soft); previously fine sh hd 2nd to Benny The Dip in 1½m Derby at Epsom (good). The improving Stowaway beat Poseidon 3l in 1½m group III Goodwood stakes race (good to firm); previously ½l 2nd to Fahal 1¼m Doncaster stakes race (good to firm) with Apprehension (same terms) 4l away 3rd.

SILVER PATRIARCH can outstay the progressive Stowaway

4.15 MELROSE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £16,483: 1m 5f 194yd) (12 runners)

501 (6) 20-2150 SOLO MIO 21 (S) (W Said) B Hills 9-7 ... Pat Eddery 96
502 (5) 324030 PAPUA 18 (F) (R & E Hitchins) I Balding 9-4 ... M Roberts 82
503 (8) 941 ZERPOUR 25 (F) (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 9-3 ... J Reid 93
504 (11) 21-2050 HAPPY MINSTRAL 12 (BF,F) (Atlantic Racing Ltd) M Johnston 8-11 D Holland 95
505 (1) 12100 CYRIAN 20 (S) (Lord Donoughmore) P Cole 8-10 ... K Darley 96
506 (12) 4-321 LIFFRE 17 (D,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-8 ... L Dettori 102
507 (3) 3-13546 MITHAK 12 (V,F) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 8-8 ... R Hills 104
508 (6) 1-42020 SAUSALITO BAY 17 (S) (J Smith) I Balding 8-8 ... K Fallon [illegible]
509 (2) 0-31134 CIRO'S PEARL 39 (BF,F,G) (J Shannon) M Tompkins 8-5 ... D Biggs 106
510 (4) 1060-60 MARATHON MAID 59 (G) (J Stephenson) R Fahey 8-5 ... R Winston (7) —
511 (10) 6-411 HIGH INTRIGUE 26 (D,F,S) (Mrs E Harris) H Cecil 8-4 ... W Ryan 95
512 (7) 024313 GEORGIA VENTURE 17 (D,G) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 8-4 ... G Duffield 101

Long handicap: Georgia Venture 8-2.

BETTING: 7-4 High Intrigue, 9-2 Liffre, 8-1 Zerpour, Georgia Venture, 10-1 Cyrian, 12-1 Solo Mio, Papua, 14-1 others.

1996: YOM JAMEEL 8-7 W R Swinburn (11-1) M Stoute 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Zerpour improved to beat Sir Ricky 3l in 1½m Newmarket maiden stakes (good to firm). Also on the upgrade is Liffre, who beat Dominant Duchess ¾l in 1¾m Goodwood handicap (good to firm) with Georgia Venture (4lb better off) 3¼l 3rd and Sausalito Bay (9lb better off) a further 13l away 11th. Sausalito Bay 1¼l 2nd to Graceful Lass in 1½m Chepstow handicap (good to firm) with Ciro's Pearl (2lb worse off) another 2½l 4th. Treble-seeking High Intrigue beat Little Acorn 1¾l in 1½m Sandown handicap (good to firm) with Mithak (6lb better off) 4½l away 4th.

HIGH INTRIGUE is weighted to complete a treble at the expense of Liffre

Eddery's celebrations are marred by three-day ban

PAT EDDERY rode his hundredth winner of the season at Windsor yesterday, but his championship hopes received a blow when he incurred a three-day ban (August 27-29 inclusive) for careless riding. The champion jockey reached the century for the 24th time in 25 years on Salmon Ladder and Risque Lady. But between those successes came his suspension on second-placed Lasham in the Earley Nursery.

Lasham led but, under a strong left-handed drive two furlongs out, drifted to his right at the furlong marker causing Fayrana, challenging against the stands' rail, to be snatched up by Michael Hills. Lasham was allowed to keep his placing.

4.45 EAGLE LANE HANDICAP

(£14,613: 6f) (23 runners)

601 (7) 5326420 VENTURE CAPITALIST 3 (CD,F,G) (W Sawers) D Nicholls 8-10-0 R Cochrane 87
602 (21) 0121113 BLESSINGINDISGUISE 10 (D,BF,F,G) (A Black) M W Easterby 4-9-9 M J Kinane 89
603 (17) 3230005 WORLD PREMIER 25 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Brittain) C Brittain 4-9-8 M Roberts 81
604 (20) /445-35 MUSIC GOLD 31 (C,F) (T Yang) W O'Gorman 4-9-6 ... Emma O'Gorman 100
605 (12) 26-0000 MADLY SHARP 10 (D,F) (Lord Swaythling) J Watts 6-9-5 ... J Reid 79
606 (15) 0365302 ZUHAIR 15 (D,F) (C Bagley Partnership Ltd) D McCain 4-9-4 ... J Carroll 100
607 (10) 53-5500 YOUNG BIGWIG 18 (D,F) (Laughton & W Milburn) J Berry 3-9-1 P Roberts (5) 87
608 (23) 60-0515 ALMUHIMM 18 (F) ([illegible] Family Settlement) T Barron 5-9-0 K Fallon 94
609 (3) 1003521 MR BERGERAC 11 (D,F,G,S) (P Jones) B Palling 6-9-0 ... L Dettori 98
610 (1) 0000010 LAGO DI VARANO 10 (V,F,G,S) (PBT Group) R Whitaker 5-8-12 Dean McKeown 91
611 (2) 000-100 PERRYSTON VIEW 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J MacPherson) P Calver 5-8-11 K Darley 100
612 (4) 0041010 THE GAY FOX 17 (F,S) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 3-8-11 ... G Duffield 96
613 (18) 1404312 PLAISIR D'AMOUR 42 (D,F,S) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 3-8-10 ... Pat Eddery 89
614 (5) 3105256 DAAWE 10 (CD,F,G) (Mrs A Unluturk) Mrs V Aconley 6-8-8 M Deering 107
615 (14) 1060213 BENZOE 18 (CD,F,G,S) (T Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 7-8-8 ... J Fortune 103
616 (16) 0002221 PRESENT GENERATION 9 (G) (S Lury) R Guest 4-8-5 ... S Sanders 92
617 (8) 2-01054 SILCA KEY SILCA 26 (D,G) (T Carby) M Channon 3-8-6 ... P P Murphy (3) [illegible]
618 (9) 0051453 TILER 3 (CD,F,S) (Mrs C Robertson) M Johnston 5-8-6 ... D Holland 100
619 (13) 3521100 DOUBLE OSCAR 3 (B,D,F,G) (Tribby Racing) D Nicholls 4-8-5 . A Nicholls (7) 99
620 (22) 1442356 GREY KINGDOM 16 (CD,F,G,S) (M Brittain) M Brittain 6-8-3 .. G Bardwell 100
621 (19) 5154510 MR TEIGH 3 (F) (Platinum Racing Ltd) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-2 ... F Lynch 93
622 (11) 4-46011 PURPLE FLING 24 (D,F,G,S) (Miss N Thurgar) D Chapman 6-8-1 . J Quinn 105
623 (6) 1535120 ROYAL DOME 10 (C,F,G) (G Jones) M Wane 5-8-1 ... L Charnock 100

BETTING: 9-1 Blessingindisguise, 10-1 Plaisir D'Amour, Tiler, 12-1 Mr Bergerac, 14-1 Almuhimm, Benzoe, Double Oscar, Madly Sharp, Perryston View, World Premier, 16-1 Grey Kingdom, Mr Teigh, 20-1 others.

1996: OPTIONS OPEN 4-9-2 K Fallon (9-1) Mrs J Ramsden 21 ran

FORM FOCUS Blessingindisguise, after three consecutive wins, was ½l 3rd to Moon Strike in 5f Haydock handicap (good to firm) with Daawe (5lb better off) 3¼l 6th, Young Bigwig (same terms) 4¼l 8th, Lago Di Varano (5lb better off) 6¾l 13th and Royal Dome (5lb better off) 7¼l 14th. Mr Bergerac in peak form after beating Distinctive Dream ¾l in 6f Newmarket handicap (good to firm). Plaisir D'Amour ran well when 1¼l 2nd to Norsette in 7f Newmarket fillies handicap (good). Benzoe, a course and distance winner, was 4¾l 3rd to Grand Chapeau in 6f Thirsk handicap (good). Silca Key Silca 4½l 4th to Elradiqa in 6f Yarmouth handicap (good to firm). Tiler ran well when ¾l 3rd to stable companion Tadeo in 6f Ripon handicap (good to firm) with Mr Teigh (same terms) 4¾l 7th, Double Oscar (same terms) 8¾l 12th and Venture Capitalist (2lb better off) 15l 20th

TILER's good Ripon run earns him the vote over Benzoe

5.15 EGLINTON NURSERY HANDICAP

(2-Y-O: £12,135: 6f 214yd) (15 runners)

1 (8) 31221 ALCONLEIGH 25 (D,G,S) (J Abell) M Johnston 9-7 ... M Roberts 79
2 (1) 3650113 FLOWER O'CANNIE 36 (D,S) (Mrs E Rhind) M W Easterby 9-7 .. M J Kinane 91
3 (10) 143 CARBON 16 (C,S) (Lord Hartington) D Morley 9-0 ... K Fallon 91
4 (7) 2242221 BERNARDO BELLOTTO 9 (G) (R Green (Fine Paintings)) M Bell 8-13 L Dettori 96
5 (13) 3313 ZIDI 21 (F) (N Shields) K Burke 8-12 ... C Lowther (5) 93
6 (6) 06451 COOL SECRET 9 (F) (G Darley Racing Partnership) A Mulholland 8-9 D Wright 83
7 (9) 000143 KING DARIUS 17 (S) (E Perry) R Hannon 8-9 ... Pat Eddery 98
8 (11) 555330 LAKELAND PRIDE 33 (J White) P Evans 8-6 ... J F Egan 77
9 (2) 31 SIMPLY GIFTED 22 (D,G) (S Hammond) T Easterby 8-4 ... L Charnock 95
10 (15) 006 CAGE AUX FOLLES 18 (C Wright) J Hills 8-3 ... R Hills 87
11 (4) 01 OPTIMISTIC 22 (D,F) (Mystic Meg Ltd) M Tompkins 8-2 ... D Biggs 82
12 (8) 1232 SICK AS A PARROT 11 (D,F) (Mrs S Dwyer) C Dwyer 7-13 ... G Bardwell [illegible]
13 (5) 3430 LEOFRIC 17 (B) (Keen Racing) M Polglase 7-13 ... J Tate 75
14 (14) 01 COLONEL CUSTER 40 (G Reed) C Thornton 7-13 ... A Mackay 91
15 (12) 603 HALF A KNICKER 35 (J Campbell) R Fahey 7-10 ... J Quinn 71

BETTING: 6-1 Simply Gifted, 7-1 Bernardo Bellotto, 8-1 Alconleigh, Zidi, 10-1 Cool Secret, King Darius, 12-1 Optimistic, 14-1 others.

1996: PENSION FUND 7-10 Dale Gibson (8-1) M W Easterby 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Alconleigh beat Belladera 2¾l in 7f Thirsk stakes race (7f, good). Flower O'Cannie 3¼l 3rd to The Rich Man in 7f Ayr nursery (good). Carbon ¾l 3rd to Peter's Imp in 6f Newcastle nursery (good to firm) with Cool Secret (9lb worse off) 1¾l 5th. Bernardo Bellotto beat The Boy John 1l in 6f Epsom maiden (good). Zidi 1l 3rd to Halmahera in 6f Goodwood nursery (good to firm). Cool Secret beat Inchalong 4l in 6f Redcar nursery (good to firm). King Darius 4¾l 3rd to Merlin's Ring in 7f Goodwood nursery (good to firm). Simply Gifted beat Balaclava ¾l in 7f Newcastle maiden (good). *Cage Aux Folles 4l 8th to Elakit in Chester maiden (7f, good to firm).* Optimistic beat Theme Tune 4l in 7f Yarmouth maiden (good to firm). Sick As A Parrot neck 2nd to Acid Test in 7f Newmarket nursery (good to firm). Colonel Custer has more to do than when beating Flame Tower 1¾l in 6f Southwell maiden stakes (all-weather). Half A Knicker showed only modest form when 11l 3rd to Lets Be Fair in 5f Beverley maiden (good to firm)

KING DARIUS appeals on Goodwood run in a competitive nursery

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Morley	9	27	33.3	L Dettori	44	194	22.7
S bin Suroor	7	25	28.0	M Kinane	15	87	17.2
H Cecil	27	100	27.0	Pat Eddery	34	204	16.7
D Loder	12	45	26.7	G Duffield	9	59	15.3
M Stoute	26	127	20.5	W Ryan	16	106	15.1
J Gosden	19	94	20.2	J Reid	23	158	14.6

Chester House can build on firm foundation

YORK

CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.05: Teapot Row surprised connections when obliging at 14-1 on his debut at Newmarket, but the James Toller-trained newcomer recorded a fast time and deserves respect. Paul Cole's representative, Jazz Club, beat two previous winners on his debut at Haydock, despite a tardy start, and *should be seen to even better* effect over today's extra furlong.

Plenty of improvement can be expected from Mr Cahill after his victory in a slowly-run Yarmouth maiden when he looked far from fully wound up. However,

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: STOWAWAY
(3.45 York)
Next best: Zerpour
(4.15 York)

Chester House can set the ball rolling for Henry Cecil's powerful team. The Mr Prospector colt won despite looking green on his debut at Goodwood and has improved significantly at home since the race.

2.35: Corradini disappointed in the Goodwood Cup, in which the undulating track did not suit the Cecil-trained runner. This talented stayer will be much more at home on this galloping track where he beat Celeric last year and is now 5lb better off. Although Double Eclipse has fragile legs, he bounced back to his best when finishing third in the Goodwood Cup and should be thereabouts.

However, I cannot desert the David Morley-trained Celeric, who ran arguably the best race of his career behind Shantou over an inadequate trip last time in the Princess of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket. Back over his best trip and running at his favourite course, the Ascot Gold Cup winner can defy a 9lb group one penalty to win this race for the second successive year.

3.10: see above.

3.45: Silver Patriarch is the form choice, judged on his second to Benny The Dip in the Derby. However, the John Dunlop-runner disappointed in the Irish Derby at the Curragh, where he was found to be slightly lame and today will be a suitable tune-up for his main target, the St Leger.

The lightly-raced Stowaway, owned by the Godolphin team, was suited by the step up in trip and quickened impressively to land the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood. With further improvement likely, Frankie Dettori's mount will be hard to beat.

Richard Evans

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

2.20 Silca Key Service. 2.50 Won't Forget Me. 3.25 Classic Dame. 4.00 Turners Way. 4.30 Never Think Twice. 5.00 Sun Alert.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST
SIS

2.20 JOHN MCCARTHY MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,644: 6f 189yd) (15 runners)

1 (3) ADMIRE Miss G Kelleway 8-11 ... R Ffrench (3) —
2 (9) 0 CANTONESE 32 R Charlton 8-11 ... T Sprake 76
3 (1) 00 CAPTIVATING 19 R Hannon 8-11 ... Dane O'Neill 75
4 (7) 303 CELESTIAL BAY 18 A Foster 8-11 ... M Tebbutt 82
5 (13) 0 COALMINERSDAUGHTER 18 J Hills 8-11 M Henry (3) 75
6 (15) ELSAAYOURA N Graham 8-11 ... M Rimmer —
7 (2) 24 MATATA 32 (BF) N Callaghan 8-11 ... S Drowne 87
8 (11) 0 MISS CHIEF MAKER 94 W Muir 8-11 Martin Dwyer (3) —
9 (4) 0 NATALIE'S PET 28 G Lewis 8-11 ... Paul Eddery 64
10 (8) 55 RATIYYA 25 B Hanbury 8-11 ... J Stack 57
11 (10) 0 RISADA 36 D Loder 8-11 ... G Carter —
12 (14) ROBANNA R Akehurst 8-11 ... A Clark —
13 (12) 5 SILCA KEY SERVICE 17 M Channon 8-11 ... A Culhane [illegible]
14 (5) 0 STAR OF GROSVENOR 21 P C-Hyam 8-11 R Havlin (3) 71
15 (6) TOUGH NELL Bob Jones 8-11 ... N Day —

2-1 Matata, 9-2 Star Of Grosvenor, 6-1 Cantonese, 7-1 Celestial Bay, 8-1 Silca Key Service, 10-1 Ratiyya, 14-1 Captivating, 16-1 others.

2.50 SMARDEN SELLING STAKES

(2-Y-O: £1,985: 6f 189yd) (6)

1 (6) 4214 CAPTAIN BLISS 22 (B,D,F) N Thicker 9-2 R Ffrench (3) 57
2 (1) 0003 FILGRAVE 11 (V) C Dwyer 8-11 ... D O'Donohoe (3) 60
3 (3) 00 GLOBAL RISK 39 C Murray 8-11 ... Nicola Howarth 38
4 (4) 056 PIANIST 41 G Lewis 8-11 ... Paul Eddery 64
5 (5) 0042 WON'T FORGET ME 11 M Tompkins 8-11 M Henry (3) [illegible]
6 (2) 080 SIPPING SODA 11 K Ivory 8-6 ... J Lowe 38

7-4 Won't Forget Me, 3-1 Captain Bliss, Pianist, 4-1 Filgrave, 25-1 Global Risk, Sipping Soda.

3.25 ROCHESTER HANDICAP (£3,252: 1m 4f) (12)

1 (12) 053- LEAR JET 195J (G) Bob Jones 4-10-0 ... N Day —
2 (8) 113- HOOFPRINTS 273 (BF,D) Mrs A Perrett 4-9-9 A Clark —
3 (4) 30-0 CLASSIC DAME 130 S Dow 4-9-7 .. D O'Donohoe (3) —
4 (11) 004 SNOW CARNIVAL 60 Lady Herries 4-8-13 ... T Sprake 45
5 (6) 06/6 KARACHI 17 (F,G) R O'Sullivan 7-8-8 ... A Procter 57
6 (9) 0031 VERONICA FRANCO 14 (CD,F) P Hedger 4-8-7 S Drowne 68
7 (7) 0805 SERIOUS TRUST 18 (D,F) Mrs Jewell 4-8-5 D Sweeney (3) 74
8 (1) 5012 ZAMALEK 8 (F) R Flower 5-8-4 ... Dane O'Neill [illegible]
9 (2) 80/0 KRAYYAN DAWN 15 (CD,F) J Akehurst 7-8-3 ... G Carter 62
10 (3) 0001 NORSONG 70 (D,F) J Akehurst 5-8-2 ... Paul Eddery 68
11 (10) 0031 COUNTRY THATCH 14 (G,F) C Horgan 4-8-1 R Ffrench (3) 68
12 (5) 0544 CANTON RON 9 H Collingridge 3-7-10 ... N Adams 61

3-1 Zamalek, 7-2 Country Thatch, 5-1 Veronica Franco, 11-2 Hoofprints, 10-1 Snow Carnival, Norsong, 12-1 Classic Dame, 14-1 others.

4.00 GRAFTY GREEN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,277: 6f) (8)

1 (5) 3030 BARBURY BALLAD 13 M Heaton-Ellis 3-8-9 A Daly (5) 38
2 (2) 2234 CASTLE ASHBY JACK 13 (B) P Howling 3-9-0 Paul Eddery 54
3 (7) 0040 SILVER SECRET 8 M Heaton-Ellis 3-9-0 ... A Clark [illegible]
4 (6) 40 TURNERS WAY 18 S Dow 3-9-0 ... D O'Donohoe (3) [illegible]
5 (4) ABLE LASS R Armstrong 3-8-9 ... R Price —
6 (3) 0004 DORADO BEACH 18 L Cottrell 3-8-9 ... N Carlisle 59
7 (8) 0-00 DOZEN ROSES 92 J Long 3-8-9 ... T G McLaughlin —
8 (1) -600 SHE'S ELECTRIC 17 J Bridger 3-8-9 ... P Doe (7) —

9-4 Silver Secret, 11-4 Castle Ashby Jack, 7-2 Able Lass, 7-1 Turners Way, Dorado Beach, 20-1 Barbury Ballad, Dozen Roses, 25-1 She's Electric.

4.30 HIGH HALDEN LIMITED STAKES

(£2,277: 6f) (14)

1 (8) d241 COMANCHE QUEST 2 (C,D,F,G,S) M Channon 4-8-6 ... A Eddery (7) 70
2 (6) -004 AKALIM 27 (D,F) L Cottrell 4-9-0 ... M Henry (3) 56
3 (9) 4446 DANDE FLYER 6 (C,F,G) D Arbuthnot 4-9-0 ... S Whitworth 77
4 (14) 0210 GOODBYE GATEMEN 18 (G) B Pearce 3-9-0 ... Lucas Long 56
5 (1) 0050 IMPOSING TIME 25 (D,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-0 ... R Ffrench (3) 67
6 (10) 0408 JUST BOB 10 (D,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 8-9-0 Jenny Benson (7) [illegible]
7 (7) 4000 NEVER THINK TWICE 4 (V,CD) K Ivory 4-9-0 G Faulkner (3) [illegible]
8 (11) 10-0 RED ADMIRAL 28 (CD,F,G) C Murray 7-9-0 Nicola Howarth —
9 (2) 2522 SHARP IMP 22 (B,BF,CD,F) R Flower 7-9-0 Martin Dwyer (3) 76
10 (4) 1553 SHASHI 3 (C,D,F) Pat Mitchell 5-9-0 ... P Bloomfield 68
11 (12) 8864 SUPERLAO 18 (F,S) J Bridger 5-8-9 ... P Doe (7) 50
12 (13) 6800 WADERS DREAM 14 (V,CD,F) Pat Mitchell 8-9-0 ... Amanda Sanders (5) 50
13 (3) 0603 PRIDE OF HAYLING 7 (CD,F) P Hedger 8-8-11 .. S Drowne 65
14 (5) 0006 BOLD TINA 18 R Hannon 3-8-8 ... Dane O'Neill 37

7-2 Sharp Imp, 11-2 Dande Flyer, Superlao, 7-1 Comanche Quest, Just Bob, 8-1 Akalim, Goodbye Gatemen, Red Admiral, Pride Of Hayling, 12-1 others.

5.00 PAUL COOK APPRENTICE HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £2,739: 2m 93yd) (7)

1 (5) 1500 SUN ALERT 20 (F) M Polglase 9-7 ... B Milligan (5) [illegible]
2 (3) 00-6 CHAIRMANS DAUGHTER 18 (B,F) J Pearce 8-10 C Teague 56
3 (4) 0424 PERLETHORPE 18 N Ball 8-2 ... R Mullen (3) 76
4 (1) 0-05 FROST KING 24 (V) Miss B Sanders 8-1 ... A Whelan —
5 (7) 5000 IMPERIAL GLEN 7 M Usher 7-10 ... J Fowle (7) 51
6 (6) -5403 BARNWOOD CRACKERS 20 (F) M Channon 7-10 R Ffrench 44
7 (2) 400 AEGEAN 27 K Ivory 7-10 ... Martin Dwyer —

13-8 Perlethorpe, 3-1 Sun Alert, 7-2 Chairmans Daughter, 9-2 Barnwood Crackers, 16-1 Aegean, 14-1 Imperial Glen, 20-1 Frost King.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Lady Herries, 8 winners from 28 runners, 28.6%; C Horgan, 8 from 28, 28.6%; N Callaghan, 8 from 30, 26.7%; D Arbuthnot, 6 from 24, 25.0%; M Heaton-Ellis, 3 from 14, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: R Ffrench, 3 winners from 14 rides, 21.4%; M Fenton, 7 from 33, 21.2%; Dane O'Neill, 15 from 79, 19.0%; N Day, 3 from 16, 18.8%; Paul Eddery, 18 from 100, 18.0%; J Stack, 3 from 19, 15.7%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Folkestone: 5.00 Frost King. York: 2.05 Saratoga Springs. 4.15 Mithak.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Windsor

Going: good to firm (good in straight)

2.30 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, AERLEON PETE (J Reid, 4-1); 2, Snow Partridge (Pat Eddery, 5-2 fav); 3, Georgina (T Sprake, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Sebadille (4th), 11 Verdi, 20 Evidently, 25 Primeval (5th), Rosa Royale, 50 Ile De Librate (6th), Langara Heights, Mistral Lord, Payaso. 12 ran. 1¾l, 3½l, nk, 6l, hd. M Stoute at Newmarket. Tote: £4.30; £1.40, £1.20, £1.80. DF: £4.20. Trio: £11.50. CSF: £13.28.

3.00 (1m 3f 135yd) 1, DEAD AIM (L Dettori, 15-8 fav); 2, Woody's Boy (S Sanders, 7-2); 3, Azores (Pat Eddery, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Picacool (5th), 6 Allandango (6th), 12 Mardrew (4th). 6 ran. ¾l, 1l, ¾l, 2l, 3½l. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote: £2.40; £1.40, £1.90. DF: £3.00. CSF: £7.72.

3.30 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, SALMON LADDER (Pat Eddery, 10-11 fav); 2, Green Card (J Reid, 3-1); 3, Conon Falls (L Dettori, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 10 Acharne (4th), Manarega (6th), 12 Behaviour (5th). 6 ran. 1¾l, 2l, 1¾l, 1¾l, 11l. P Cole at Whatcombe. Tote: 1.90; 1.30, 1.60. DF: 2.00. CSF: 3.74.

4.00 (5f 217yd) 1, CAVERSFIELD (Dane O'Neill, 11-2); 2, Lasham (Pat Eddery, 13-2); 3, Muhtafeur (A McGlone, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Fayrana (5th), 9-2 Sassy (4th), 7 Russian About, 10 American Cousin, Shannon, 12 Really Done It Now, Smart Beau (6th). 10 ran. 1½l, nk, 1l, 1½l, 1l. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £7.30; £1.90, £2.40, £2.20. DF: £45.70. Trio: £104.40. CSF: £41.97. Tricast: £216.78. After a stewards' inquiry, the result stood.

4.30 (5f 10yd) 1, RISQUE LADY (Pat Eddery, 3-1); 2, Royal Shyness (Paul Eddery, 5-4 fav); 3, Gunzalis (C Rutter, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Kalsh, 8 Dancing Wolf, 14 Zelah (4th), 20 Doodle, Golden Fortune, Very Simple, 33 Kathies Pet, Lady Charlotte (5th), Persian Sabre (6th), Zeptepi, 50 Aviva Lady, Call Me Vera. 15 ran. Sh hd, 6l, hd, hd, 1¾l. P Harris at Berkhamsted. Tote: £4.40; £1.70, £1.60, £4.30. DF: £4.80. Trio: £41.00. CSF: £8.69.

5.00 (5f 10yd) 1, OPENING RANGE (P Bradley, 14-1); 2, Balm Atholl (J Fowle, 25-1); 3, Whizz Kid (P Clarke, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 5-6 fav Cross The Border (6th), 6 Tachycardia (5th), 8 Mystical, 9 Divine Miss-P, 10 Tommy Tempest, 16 Partpez, 20 Gi La High, 25 Mister Raider (4th), 50 Dancing Jack. 12 ran. 1¾l, 1l, ½l, ¾l, ½l. N Berry at Lambourn. Tote: £17.80; £3.20, £5.50, £3.90. DF: £298.30. Trio: £722.40 (part won. Pool of £712.31 carried forward to 4.45 York today). CSF: £308.62. Tricast: £7,745.17.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £27,774.89 carried forward to York today).

Placepot: £722.80. Quadpot: £828.30.

Hamilton Park

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.15 (1m 4f 17yd) 1, GLOBE RUNNER (A Culhane, 4-1); 2, Il Principe (Dale Gibson, 8-1); 3, Charlie Bigtime (A Mackay, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 fav Winnebago (4th), 4 Mister Aspecto (5th), 9-2 Monaco Gold, 9 Daira, 66 Cois Na Farraige, 100 Chill Wind (6th). 9 ran. 1¾l, hd, 1l, 1¾l, 2l. J J O'Neill at Penrith. Tote: £5.50; £1.30, £3.30, £3.30. DF: £33.80. Trio: £61.60. CSF: £36.49. Tricast: £717.00.

2.45 (1m 1f 36yd) 1, WESTERN VENTURE (L Charnock, 25-1); 2, Seconds Away (T Williams, 7-1); 3, Trying Times (T E Durcan, 20-1); 4, Monis (Darren Moffatt, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5 j-fav Oriel Lad (6th), Reinhardt, 15-2 Sagebrush Roller, 10 Comic Hill, Shamokin, 14 Tinklers Folly, 16 Hotcake, Milltown City, Mystic Times, 25 *Catwalk Girl, Petit Flora, 33 School Of Science* (5th), Stone Cross, 50 Petrico. 18 ran. ½l, nk, ½l, ¾l, 1l. M Wane at Richmond. Tote: £30.70; £4.60, £1.70, £3.40, £2.50. DF: £156.90. Trio: £771.90 (part won. Pool *of £347.94 carried forward to 4.45 York today*). CSF: £176.90. Tricast: £3,317.66. Bought in 4,700gns.

3.15 (6f 5yd) 1, CHASKA (J Weaver, Evens fav); 2, Baytham (T E Durcan, 33-1); 3, Inshallah (A Mackay, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 9 Candy Twist (4th), 10 Llanasa (ur), Pride Of Bryn (5th), 14 Castle Friend (6th), 25 Easy Risk, 50 Ingle Boy. 9 ran. ¾l, 2l, ¾l, hd, 2½l. M Johnston at Middleham. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £4.10, £2.50. DF: £17.80. Trio: £36.90. CSF: £45.07.

3.45 (6f 5yd) 1, HO LENG (N Kennedy, 20-1); 2, Lags Be Friendly (J F Egan, 4-7 fav); 3, Emperor's Gold (A Mackay, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Madman's Mirage, Miss Salsa Dancer (4th), 12 Henry The Proud, 16 Mariana (5th), 33 Kings Check (6th). 8 ran. 1¾l, 10l, hd, 1¾l, 3½l. Miss L Perratt at Ayr. Tote: £28.20; £4.10, £1.10, £1.40. DF: £26.10. CSF: £31.51.

4.15 (1m 65yd) 1, TOUJOURS RIVIERA (G Bardwell, 7-2); 2, Pekay (J Weaver, 9-4 fav); 3, *Classic Flyer (A Mackay, 14-1).* ALSO RAN: 3 Kass Alhawa (4th), 8 Celebration Cake (6th), 10 Nobby Barnes (5th), 25 Habeta. 7 ran. 1½l, ¾l, 1½l, ½l, ¾l. J Pearce at Newmarket. Tote: £4.60; £2.20, £1.40. DF: £7.10. CSF: £9.83.

4.45 (1m 3f 16yd) 1, MONTECRISTO (P Roberts, 5-1); 2, Lord Advocate (P Fessey, 10-1); 3, Giftbox (Darren Moffatt, 25-1). ALSO RAN: Evens fav Double Flight (6th), 3 Philmist (5th), 20 Rapid Mover (4th), 33 The Vale. 7 ran. 3½l, hd, 8l, 7l, 10l. R Guest at Newmarket. Tote: £6.40; £2.60, £1.30. DF: £24.80. CSF: £43.37.

Placepot: £380.00.

Quadpot: £28.20.

Perratt poised for best tally

HO LENG'S 20-1 success at Hamilton Park yesterday put *Linda Perratt on course for a* new seasonal best.

The two-year-old provided the Ayr-based trainer with her thirteenth winner of the campaign, equalling last year's total.

CRICKET

Lee bowls closer to Australia debut at the Oval

By Richard Hobson

CANTERBURY (final day of three): The Australians beat Kent by six wickets

SHANE LEE wore the expression of a contented soul as he sat on the players' balcony and strummed his guitar. Out in the middle, Ricky Ponting and Michael Bevan steered the Australians to a third first-class victory of the tour against county opposition.

They put on 90 for the unbroken fifth wicket, but Kent squandered opportunities to split the stand and set up a closer finish. Such a criticism cannot be levelled at Lee. The past week has seen him plucked from Enfield, a Lancashire League side, into the Ashes party and, with eight wickets in the match, he is closer to a Test debut than ever.

Mark Taylor, the captain, said before leaving with his family for a sightseeing trip to London that Shaun Young, also uncapped, was more likely to fill the vacancy for a third seamer in the sixth and final Test at The Oval on Thursday. "Shane will really have to outbowl Shaun to have any chance," Taylor said.

Lee did just that and, if his stock rose gradually over the first two days, then his prospects improved dramatically in the initial session yesterday. Steve Waugh, the acting captain, who will help to pick the Test side this evening, withdrew Young from the attack after three overs costing 19 runs. Lee bowled 11 overs, took the second new ball and claimed three wickets for five runs in the space of 18 balls to finish with four for 86 in the innings and eight for 113 in the match.

Waugh said: "In the first innings, Shaun was maybe trying too hard, but in the second he performed the containing job we would want at The Oval. Shaun might still be just in front because he has played first-class cricket here all summer for Gloucestershire, but that was the best I have seen Shane bowl in first-class cricket. He settled into a good rhythm, swung the ball and worked the batsmen out."

Fleming could consider himself unfortunate to be caught off a genuine leg glance, while Marsh pulled to mid-wicket and Strang edged to slip as Lee took a grip. Ponting missed Thompson first ball and Michael Slater, more embarrasingly, dropped a straightforward chance from Ealham at cover. Either would have given Lee the first five-wicket haul of his career.

Ealham progressed to 85 from 118 balls, quickly in position to cut and drive. Ponting, however, atoned for the earlier mistake by holding a wonderful, right-handed catch at mid-wicket when Ealham pulled Kasprowicz off the front foot seemingly for his fourteenth four.

The Australians required 230 from a minimum of 60 overs. They set off apace as, for the first time on the tour, Slater resembled the dashing opening batsman who became such a perfect foil for Taylor in England in 1993. Before striking 47 yesterday, his best score had been 26 and his aggregate of 159 runs is just seven more than in the Test innings at Lord's four years ago that earmarked him as a greatly talented player.

Few would have begrudged him the three runs to raise his half-century. Instead, he went back to a delivery by Fleming that nipped in to uproot his off stump. Mark Waugh chipped to mid-wicket and Ponting briefly struggled against the leg spin of Strang. Fleeter footwork helped him to overcome the challenge though and, like Bevan, he began to work the ball into the gaps.

Dean Headley, who missed this contest, will have a test on his injured heel when England convene at The Oval today, but is confident of proving his fitness.

Australia may select new one-day captain

AUSTRALIA'S Test cricket captain should no longer be guaranteed the job of leading the limited-overs side, Trevor Hohns, the chairman of selectors, said yesterday.

Hohns, who heads a five-man selection panel, is seeking a change of policy to give him authority to pick a specialist captain, if necessary, for one-day matches. "We would like the freedom to pick a team for each specific type of game and that includes the captain," Hohns said in Brisbane. "Limited-overs cricket and Test cricket are now many miles apart and some players play one-day cricket better than others."

Mark Taylor has led Australia in the Test series and the limited-overs internationals on the Ashes tour in England. Australia have retained the Ashes in the six-Test series against England, but lost the limited-overs series.

Taylor struggled for form as an opener earlier in the tour, prompting calls for his sacking, but he has hinted he will stay on as captain if he receives the selectors' backing.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Hitting out against Igglesden at Canterbury yesterday, Slater shows the dashing form that made him an Australia opening batsman

Spirited Pakistanis fall at final hurdle

By Barney Spender

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): ECB XI beat Pakistan A by five wickets

THE colleague in the press box who confidently predicted that this match would be over by lunchtime duly lost his 50p yesterday for the simple reason that the Pakistanis, mindful that this was their last game on tour, opted for a scrap rather supine surrender.

When the ECB XI began their quest for the 107 runs that they needed to win, they lost both openers, Maddy and Lewis, in the first six overs to some highly-charged fast bowling from Abdul Razzaq and Azhar Mahmood. Then, after a steadying partnership of 63 between Grayson and Hemp, they lost three more to the wiles and turn of Shoaib Malik, the 15-year-old off spinner, and Ali Hussain Rizvi, the leg spinner.

Another 50 runs would have made the chase interesting, but the English batsmen were always just ahead of the game and Dougie Brown, of Warwickshire, completed a memorable match by cuffing Mahmood for the boundary that brought the winning runs at 2.25pm.

Brown, who made 43 in the first innings, had started the day by taking the outstanding Pakistani A wicket when Rizvi provided Nixon with his eighth dismissal of the match in the fourth over. With career-best figures of eight for 89 and 11 wickets in the match, an England A tour is now well within his compass. "Put it like this, if you perform well in these games, it can't do you any harm," Graham Gooch, the ECB XI manager and England selector, said.

For the Pakistanis, there was disappointment at finishing their tour with a first-class record of just one win, against Somerset, set against defeats by Derbyshire, MCC, Yorkshire and the ECB. Yet Agha Zahid, the coach, was in ebullient mood. "This is a very young team, the average age is under 20, so it has been good for them to experience the conditions here and also the daily diet of cricket," he said. "It has pushed them along to the point that I would expect five or six of them to play Test cricket very soon."

Three — Muhammed Wasim, Saleem Elahi and the precociously-gifted Hassan Raza — have already had a taste of the Test arena, but there can be little doubt that Mahmood, the all-rounder who kept them in this game on Sunday, and Shoaib Akhtar, the fast bowler, will soon be there, too.

"Shoaib Akhtar has been the find of the tour," Aghar said. "At times, he has bowled as fast as Waqar Younis, he has learned well, but now he needs to play in the Test team, where he will learn and improve much more quickly. He needs to make that step up."

Ali Naqvi, the opening batsman, who made a fine century against MCC, Javed Qadeer, the wicketkeeper, and Razzaq have also advanced their causes considerably over the past seven weeks.

The one big disappointment, however, as it was for the South Africans when they toured last year, was the lack of a representative match against England A. "When England came to Pakistan, they played three Tests and three one-dayers. It would have been good to have done the same here because, although it was a great experience, playing the counties does not motivate the players to produce something special." Unfortunately, England A look destined to play all their cricket abroad.

Centurians resist Yorkshire attack

By John Thicknesse

PORTSMOUTH (final day of four): Hampshire (8pts) drew with Yorkshire (1)

YORKSHIRE were left to regret wasting the steamy, swing-bowling conditions of Sunday when the United Services pitch reverted to type in favour of the batsmen yesterday, enabling Hampshire to deprive them of the win that would have lifted them to fourth place in the table.

Hampshire's saviours were Giles White, whose 145 was his maiden championship hundred, and John Stephenson, the captain, whose 114 was his own first in that sphere since 1995 — and amazingly 65 higher than his previous best in the competition this year.

Brought together by the loss of Keech at 202 for four, when Hampshire were still 18 away from clearing off their deficit, their stand of 173 in 155 minutes deserved to make the match safe and would normally have done so.

Yesterday that was not quite the case, however. There were still 53 overs in the day when White succumbed to the second new ball and, in the next 12, three more wickets fell, Stephenson's among them.

Thanks to Gavin Hamilton's first five-wicket haul for Yorkshire, which trimmed Hampshire to 410 for eight, the visitors had an unexpected sniff of a victory. In Udal, though, Hampshire had the man for the repair job. Batting with the aplomb of a No 3, he took the game beyond Yorkshire's reach by scoring 37, an innings that contained an off-drive that ranked with any stroke throughout the match.

Until yesterday, Stephenson had scored only 385 championship runs in 17 innings and, hit on the toe in the over he came in, he had to survive a strident leg-before appeal before escaping his pair. Searching for his form, he took half-an-hour to score his first nine runs.

Relief came in the form of Vaughan's off breaks. Having cracked a long-hop over square-leg in the spinner's first over, Stephenson helped himself to 20 off his second with two perfectly-struck straight sixes and two fours.

Weighing into Stemp, the slow left-hander, he added three more sixes, completing his hundred off 124 balls. He produced a bad stroke to get out, dragging Hamilton into the stumps off the edge of a crooked bat, but might have done enough to give his season revelance.

White's 145 should have been a turning point for him as well. With nothing but a draw to play for, he batted chancelessly on two hot days for 338 minutes, hitting 21 fours.

James enhances chances but Glamorgan slip up

By Pat Gibson

WORCESTER (final day of four): Worcestershire (24pts) beat Glamorgan (6) by 54 runs

STEVE JAMES did his prospects of playing for England in the West Indies this winter no harm at all yesterday by scoring his fifth county championship century of the summer in front of David Graveney, the chairman of selectors. Not even that, however, was enough to enhance a cause much closer to Welsh hearts.

Glamorgan are desperate to win the championship for the first time since 1969 and only the second time in their history, but a victory target of 374, seven more than they have ever made to win a match, proved beyond them. In the end, they were all out for 319 with 4.3 overs remaining and instead of Glamorgan going back to the top of the table, Worcestershire, more improbably, moved into fourth place.

Whether they can sustain a realistic challenge remains to be seen, but one had to admire the way Tom Moody, their Australian captain, got the best out of his seemingly modest resources in this absorbing match, which was set up nicely when Worcestershire began the final day 341 runs ahead with three wickets in hand.

Philip Weston had added only eight to his overnight 106 when the deserving Croft had him caught off a top-edged sweep, but a bad miss by Shaw cost Glamorgan 14 runs, which could have been crucial, before the innings folded.

Glamorgan had a minimum of 81 overs to get their runs and the target, stiff as it was on a fourth day pitch, did not seem beyond them when James and Morris, the most prolific opening pair in the country, were putting on 115 in 30 overs.

Graveney, who had a wasted journey on the first day, when they did not get to the crease, must have been impressed, particularly with James. He is not the most elegant of batsmen and has the reputation of being a pragmatic accumulator of runs, but now he unveiled a pleasing array of strokes as he went past fifty for the fourteenth time in 20 innings this season.

James: tour prospect

It was then that Glamorgan suffered their first big setback. James drilled Hick to extra cover and called for a sharp single only to discover that Morris could not get to the other end in time to beat Solanki's pick up and throw.

Worse was to follow. Dale had already been brilliantly taken at slip by Lampitt off Moody's off-spin when Haynes struck the blows that settled the match. First, he had Powell caught at slip; then, he surprised Maynard, who had batted sublimely for 161 not out in the first innings, with a delivery that lifted to have him caught behind first ball.

Croft, who must appear before an England and Wales Cricket Board disciplinary panel with his Essex adversary, Mark Ilott, tonight, helped James put on 78 for the fifth wicket, but all hope was gone for Glamorgan when James, having raced to his hundred with three fours off four balls from Moody, called Leatherdale to square leg.

All that remained was the defiance of Waqar, who thrashed two sixes and six fours in an unbeaten 44 before he ran out of partners.

Notts tied down in spite of Dowman

By Ivo Tennant

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of four): Nottinghamshire (8pts) drew with Somerset (7)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S bold attempt to score 320 off a minimum of 76 overs narrowly foundered yesterday. Given the ideal start by Matthew Dowman, who made 124, they kept going, creditably, until their last pair, Wayne Noon and Andy Oram, were at the crease. Needing 15 runs to win, they fell back on defence in the final over.

The joy was that in no sense was this a contrived finish. This was Dowman's third century of the season. Pollard, who has recovered from injury, will have a job to regain his place now. Dowman faced, in all, 188 balls and struck 18 fours.

Alas for him, other than a half-century from Astle, there was insufficient support. Johnson and Metcalfe went cheaply and, although Noon and Afzaal brought the target down to 17 off two overs, the necessary runs had to be made against Caddick and Mushtaq Ahmed.

At the start of the last hour, Nottinghamshire needed 93, which was asking a lot. They did, though, have eight wickets intact. The captain soon went, looking to make room to cut Mushtaq and Dowman, who had made a decent score for the fourth match in succession, lost his leg stump in Rose's next over.

In the following over, the fifth of the last 16, Tolley injudiciously opted to reverse sweep and was held at point.

After that, there were not enough strokemakers, or even sloggers, for Nottinghamshire to reach their target. On a pitch which still had some life in it for the medium pacers, Bowler had delayed his declaration. Trescothick, unbeaten with 70 overnight, finished with 81 including eight fours, and Turner and Rose thumped the ball around merrily at the end of Somerset's innings.

Nottinghamshire are to have a further attempt at luring the Australia leg spinner, Shane Warne, to Trent Bridge. They are prepared to pay him a six-figure sum next season and to give him the chance of making more money from commercial opportunities. For example, Peter Wright, the managing director of Gunn and Moore, the renowned bat manufacturers, sits on Nottinghamshire's committee.

They are all too aware, though, that there is increasing pressure on Warne to remain at home and conserve his energies for Australia's forthcoming series. Alan Border, for one, feels a period of rest is necessary.

Strolling players plot to propel Italy on to the world stage

Ivo Tennant on the learning curve that led one of cricket's lesser lights to the playing fields of Stratford-upon-Avon

There has been entertainment of a very different kind down the Avon from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, although these performers might be considered to be *dramatis personae*, too. They wear *pantaloni da cricket* and blue shirts that look as if they belong to Roberto Baggio — or even Tony Blair — and there is a showiness about the fielders and the wicketkeeper, who has his cap on back to front. The Italy cricket team are bewitching the tourists and bemusing their opponents.

Italy are in the middle of an intensive tour of England — 11 fixtures in 15 days — and, until last Sunday, it had not been a successful one. They had lost four matches and gained a draw at Stratford-upon-Avon with their last pair at the crease, before achieving a three-wicket victory over a Durham XI containing a sprinkling of players with first-team experience.

Results, though, are hardly the point of the tour, for this 16-man party of labourers, students, a janitor, an accountant and somebody who is something in television is in England to learn. "We know we are a bad team and do not mind saying so," Dr Simone Gambino, chairman of Federazione Cricket Italiana, admitted.

They are, though, improving. The International Cricket Council (ICC), whose chief executive, David Richards, has visited Italy of late, has conferred associate membership upon them. Expatriates are playing a less significant part than in the past and Englishmen are being phased out altogether. Of this touring party, their ages ranging from 15 to 38, 11 are Italians, four Sri Lankans and one, Akhlaq Qureshi, a Pakistani who has played first-class cricket for United Bank. The captain, Kamal Kariyawasam, is a Sri Lankan who has lived in Italy for the past 18 years.

"Now we have proper cricketers and the sport has government recognition," Gambione said. A 39-year-old historian who speaks perfect English, he has been the leading figure in the Italian game since the days when he confounded opponents by opening the bowling off two paces. Their cricket has come on considerably since then. Although Italy did not win a match in the ICC Trophy tournament in the spring, they did bowl out Scotland. Gambione is not entirely jesting when he talks about their participation "in the tenth World Cup from now".

At Stratford-upon-Avon, fringed with weeping willows and gawping tourists, Italy could not withstand a Midlands Conference XI, in spite of an unbeaten 135 by Hemantha Jayasena, who batted throughout the innings. Italy are of commensurate standard now to Argentina, East and West Africa, Gibraltar and Israel and will participate in the European championship in Holland next year, but they find organising matches against club sides a more straightforward affair. On the morning of one scheduled match, they discovered that their opponents, Israel, had vanished during the night for security reasons. In 1990, Italy were expelled from the European Cricketer Cup after Gambione objected to the rules for qualification.

The blue-eyed boys of Italian cricket brought a splash of colour to the English game

There are only 400 registered cricketers in Italy and yet the ICC has been supportive of the Federazione. "It gives us £20,000 a year and pays our costs for taking part in the Trophy," Gambione said.

With water short in the summer months, all the pitches in Italy are artificial. Martin Crowe, the former New Zealand batsman, has provided help on a part-time basis and Italy now have a coach for five months of the year. Doug Ferguson is a one-time league professional from Durham, who recommended Geoff Cook and Peter Willey, among others, to Northamptonshire. "If we win two matches on this tour, we will be doing well," he said.

Satellite television has introduced the young and old alike to cricket, although how suited the Latin temperament is to the game is another matter. "Matches in our Italian championship can become rough," Gambione said. "Nations like ours who are bad at cricket have no present — we only have a future. No country outside those who play Test matches has undertaken so many tours in recent years. We are not ashamed to say we are not good cricketers. We want to learn."

CRICKET

Spin doctors conjure collapse of Sussex

BY SIMON WILDE

HOVE (final day of four): Gloucestershire (23pts) beat Sussex (7) by 166 runs

THE capture of Mark Robinson's wicket is not normally cause for wild celebrations, but it was yesterday. No sooner had Richard Davis bowled this most leporine of county batsmen than he was jumped on by his Gloucestershire team-mates as they rejoiced in a resounding defeat of Sussex that puts them back on top of the Britannic Assurance county championship table.

They will stay there for a few days at least, but sit out the next round of matches before returning to action — with Shaun Young back in tow — against Nottinghamshire at Bristol tomorrow week. They then complete their programme with matches against Kent, possibly their most dangerous rivals, Warwickshire and Lancashire.

Two aspects of play yesterday must have surprised them. One was the manner in which Sussex finally capitulated, because they had previously fought hard, obliging Gloucestershire to bat on for 40 minutes in the morning and set them an unlikely target of 328.

From the point that Toby Peirce and Neil Taylor were separated, having shared a second-wicket stand worth 107, until Robinson was out, Sussex lost nine wickets in a mere 96 minutes for the addition of 52 runs. They were all out a minute before the start of the final hour.

But the other unexpected feature was the success of the two Gloucestershire spinners, Martyn Ball and Richard Davis, who had contributed little to the earlier stages of their championship campaign. To the challenge set them here, they rose magnificently. Ball took five for 66 and Davis four for 35 — giving him match figures of eight for 70 — and both appeared to thrive on the work they were given here, which far exceeded what had been asked of them in any earlier match this season. Beforehand, Davis had taken three championship wickets at 62 apiece, Ball ten at the same cost.

In a sense, they did only what they are employed to do, but spinners' fingers need to get warm and their hearts require encouragement.

They lacked for neither once Alleyne had brought them together at the first opportunity, which was immediately after lunch, Ball having left the field to seek treatment for a blow on the arm.

Both were superbly supported by their close fielders, who pouched seven of the eight chances offered. Earlier, Ball had himself held Rao at slip in Lewis's first over; three more catches were then held in the slips and two each at short leg and silly point, most of them inches off the ground, though only the first and last, to account for Peirce and Edwards, flew from strokes aggressive in intent.

For all Gloucestershire's vigour, it was an afternoon that reflected badly on Sussex. With two reasonably crafted half-centuries, Peirce, the left-hander, showed promise in this game but there was little encouragement to be had from the rest of the Sussex young brigade.

Peirce and Taylor survived for 2½ hours through a sensible mix of defence and enterprise — when they were together, a post-tea run-chase was not out of the question — but once they were gone, there was too much timid pushing and prodding from players who showed little evidence that they knew how to play spin. For those who have watched Sussex bat before this season, it was an all too familiar story.

TABLE

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Glouca (13)	13	6	3	4	29	44	181
Kent (4)	12	6	4	2	28	41	171
Glamorgan (10)	12	5	2	5	33	37	165
Worcs (7)	12	4	1	7	33	36	159
Surrey (3)	13	4	3	6	32	39	153
Middlesex (9)	12	5	4	3	22	38	149
Yorkshire (6)	12	4	2	6	26	40	148
Essex (5)	12	4	4	4	29	42	147
Lancashire (15)	13	4	5	4	27	38	141
Warwickshire (8)	12	4	2	6	20	35	137
Leics (1)	13	2	1	10	28	42	122
Somerset (11)	12	2	2	8	28	44	128
Notts (17)	12	3	2	7	13	43	125
Hampshire (14)	13	2	4	7	33	30	116
Northants (16)	12	2	4	6	21	33	104
Durham (18)	12	2	5	5	14	37	98
Sussex (12)	13	1	7	5	21	44	96
Derbyshire (2)	12	1	6	5	20	44	95

☐ Worcestershire's record includes eight points as a side batting last in a match where scores finished level

(Last year's positions in brackets)

GILL ALLEN

The batting promise of Peirce, who claimed half-centuries in each innings, was not enough to halt Gloucestershire

Pressure back on Ramprakash

MICHAEL HENDERSON

Line and Length

Mark Ramprakash is such a talented batsman and so immersed in the game that has been his life that one wishes him all that he wishes for himself. He makes big scores with unfailing ease for Middlesex and the captaincy that the club conferred on him two months ago suggests that he is finally at peace with himself. Why, then, does one fear for him?

In the first place, the facts do him few favours and, although only pedants rely exclusively on facts, they provide a good place from which to start. In 19 Tests, between 1991 and 1995, Ramprakash has failed to make a hundred and he has passed fifty only twice in 33 innings, on both occasions against Australia.

Four summers ago, he was summoned across Vauxhall Bridge at the last minute from Lord's, where Middlesex were playing Northamptonshire, to play at the Oval after Graham Thorpe broke a thumb knocking up in the nets. He made 64 in the second innings as England won. In Perth 18 months later, when he joined the party as a late replacement, he made 72 in an overwhelming defeat.

On the first occasion, Australia had won the series; at Perth, England were playing for a share of it after the Ashes had gone. Perhaps that reveals something about the man's character. With no time to fret about his performance, or how the result could affect the outcome of the series, he could bat freely, and did.

Yet Test cricket is not about making runs when the pressure is off, which leads directly to the second point. Ramprakash has never indicated that his temperament is attuned to the demands, more mental than anything, of mastering the best bowlers in the world. Michael Atherton cannot be wrong when he says: "Ramps has never done it when it has mattered." His Test average, around 16, is inferior to Paul Reiffel's and only a shade better than Shane Warne's.

One can assume, therefore, that Atherton did not lobby for his inclusion at the Oval, where England conclude their disappointing summer. This selection bears the stamp of Mike Gatting. Ramprakash's former county captain, who endured seven torrid years of self-doubt before he proved himself worthy of a Test place and, having proved it, went on two years later to lead England to victory in Australia.

There is now fevered talk in some excitable quarters — well, it has been inordinately hot — of Ramprakash taking over the reins from Atherton, which does the man no service at all. Gatting, for all those early failures, consistently passed fifty in Tests and rarely looked out of place. The younger Ramprakash was so introspective that he made Hamlet resemble a man of reckless impulse.

An English Test crowd last saw him at Lord's two years ago, against West Indies, when he bagged a pair and took so long to leave the crease that the umpires were about to send for the bailiffs. He still got the nod that winter in South Africa before another duck, in "Atherton's match" at Johannesburg, saw him return to the ranks.

At the start of that tour, Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, spoke of how the selectors considered him the best man to bat first wicket down and how they were "desperate" for him to succeed. How much additional pressure those comments placed on this sensitive man is hard to gauge, but it didn't prove the making of him. He froze in the Tests, was overlooked for the rest of the tour out of pity and returned to England as a wounded bird.

That he remains sensitive to the doubts of others is evident. On Sunday, when television cameras went to Lord's in the hope of recording a few words with him, Ramprakash chose to keep his own counsel. He is entitled to do so, of course, but the pressure will not evaporate simply because he does not want to talk about it.

No matter how many runs he has made this season, no matter how beautifully he has made them, England have still taken a risk in recalling him. Everybody is rooting for "Ramps" because he has a rare gift and it is always galling to see a gifted person fail to do himself justice.

Good intentions, however, are never enough and there is nothing anybody else can do for him. When he returns to the team on Thursday, he is playing with fire. And fire burns.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tetley's Challenge Series
Kent v Australians

CANTERBURY (final day of three): The Australians beat Kent by six wickets

KENT: First Innings 201 (M V Fleming 62, S Lee 4 for 27, M S Kasprowicz 4 for 72)

Second Innings

T R Ward c Blewett b Bevan	62
E T Smith lbw b M E Waugh	48
A P Wells c Berry b Young	65
W J House b Lee	20
M A Ealham c Ponting b Kasprowicz	85
S J Phillips c S R Waugh b Kasprowicz	0
M J Fleming c Berry b Lee	29
Imtiaz A Murphy c Kasprowicz b Lee	3
P A Strang c Ponting b Lee	4
J P D Thompson c Ponting b Kasprowicz	2
A P Igglesden not out	2
Extras (b 4, lb 2, nb 12)	16
Total	343

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-99, 2-159, 3-200, 4-203, 5-234, 6-285, 7-303, 8-307, 9-318

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 24-4-89-3; Young 15-7-40-1; Lee 25-7-86-4; Blewett 5-2-26-0; M E Waugh 12-5-30-1; Bevan 17-2-66-1

AUSTRALIANS: First Innings 315 (S R Waugh 154, M G Bevan 55)

Second Innings

J L Langer c Marsh b Thompson	22
M J Slater b Fleming	47
G S Blewett c Marsh b Thompson	18
M E Waugh c Smith b Strang	33
R T Ponting not out	56
M G Bevan not out	47
Extras (lb 2, nb 4)	6
Total (4 wkts)	231

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-67, 2-91, 3-99, 4-141

BOWLING: Igglesden 5-0-28-0; Ealham 5-1-13-0; Phillips 6-2-30-0; Thompson 12-3-58-2; Fleming 11-2-22-1; Strang 10-0-43-1; Hooper 2.5-0-24-0

Tour match
ECB XI v Pakistan A

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): ECB XI beat Pakistan A by five wickets

PAKISTAN A: First Innings 227 (P M Such 5 for 74)

Second Innings

Mujahid Jamshed c Giles b Brown	20
Salim Elahi c Nixon b Brown	8
*Mohammad Wasim c Maddy b Brown	0
Humar Raza c Nixon b Brown	57
Farhan Adil c Grayson b Such	43
†Javed Qadeer c Maddy b Brown	5
Azhar Mahmood c Nixon b Brown	90
Abdul Razzak c Grayson b Giles	22
Shoaib Malik Malik b Brown	4
Irfan Fazl not out	5
Ali Hussain Hussain Raza c Nixon b Brown	7
Extras (lb 12, w 1, nb 4)	17
Total	318

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-55, 3-74, 4-96, 5-130, 6-137, 7-221, 8-264, 9-310

BOWLING: Welch 15-9-24-0; Brown 21.5-1-89-6; Ormond 13-0-67-0; Such 17-4-60-1; Giles 22-7-55-1

ECB XI: First Innings 439 (A F Giles 81, A P Grayson 77, G Welch 62, D L Hemp 53)

Second Innings

J J B Lewis lbw b Azhar Mahmood	4
D L Maddy c Javed Qadeer b Abdul Razzak	0
D L Hemp c †Mohammad Wasim b Shoaib Malik	41
*A P Grayson c Mohammad Wasim b Ali Hussain Raza	31
D J Sales c Hasan Raza b Shoaib Malik	5
†P A Nixon not out	10
D R Brown not out	13
Extras (lb 1, lb 2, nb 4)	7
Total (5 wkts)	109

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-11, 3-74, 4-81, 5-88

BOWLING: Abdul Razzak 6-1-34-1; Azhar Mahmood 8.3-3-24-1; Ali Hussain Raza 12-3-27-1; Shoaib Malik 10-3-21-2

Britannic Assurance county championship
Hampshire v Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH (final day of four): Hampshire (8pts) drew with Yorkshire (11)

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 501 for 8 dec (D S Lehmann 162, R J Blakey 75, M P Vaughan 74)

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 251 (R A Smith 110, M L Hayden 88; P M Hutchison 7 for 50)

Second Innings

J S Laney lbw b Hamilton	61
M L Hayden c Blakey b Hutchison	4
G W White lbw b Hamilton	145
R A Smith c Parker b Hamilton	0
M Keech c Moore b White	25
*J P Stephenson b Hamilton	114
†A N Aymes lbw b Hutchison	3
S D Udal st Blakey b Lehmann	37
L Savident c Stemp b Hamilton	5
S J Renshaw not out	16
C Patel not out	3
Extras (b 4, lb 12, w 8, nb 14)	38
Total (9 wkts dec)	471

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-149, 3-149, 4-202, 5-375, 6-400, 7-404, 8-410, 9-464

BOWLING: Hamilton 27-5-89-5; Hutchison 30-6-95-2; White 21-5-85-1; Stemp 30-10-81-0; Moore 13-4-24-0; Vaughan 16-0-92-0; Lehmann 5-1-6-1; Parker 1-0-3-0

Wores v Glamorgan

WORCESTER (final day of four): Worcestershire (24pts) beat Glamorgan (6) by 54 runs

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 478 for 9 dec (T S Curtis 160, G A Hick 65)

Second Innings

T S Curtis c Shaw b Watkin	11
W P C Weston c Shaw b Croft	114
G A Hick c Dale b Croft	31
G R Haynes lbw b Watkin	33
*T M Moody c Thomas b Croft	14
D A Leatherdale lbw b Waqar	2
V S Solanki c Powell b Croft	5
†S J Rhodes c Shaw b Waqar	27
S R Lampitt not out	16
M M Mirza run out	0
A Sheriyar c Croft b Waqar	9
Extras (lb 12, w 6, nb 13)	31
Total	295

BOWLING: Watkin (round) 20-6-60-2; Watkin 24-7-49-2; Thomas 11-1-38-0; Butcher 6-1-44-0; Croft 42-10-98-4; Powell 11-0-3-0

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 396 (M P Maynard 161 not out, E P James 68)

Second Innings

S P James c Curtis b Leatherdale	130
H Morris run out	37
A Dale c Lampitt b Mirza	13
M J Powell c Solanki b Haynes	8
*M P Maynard c Rhodes b Haynes	0
P D B Croft c Lampitt b Mirza	33
G P Butcher c and b Moody	18
†A D Shaw run out	5
Waqar Younis not out	44
S D Thomas lbw b Mirza	1
S L Watkin c Lampitt b Mirza	0
Extras (lb 11, lb 7, w 4, nb 8)	30
Total	319

BOWLING: Sheriyar 6-2-12-0; Mirza 13.3-1-50-3; Hick 12-1-38-0; Moody 22-3-105-2; Lampitt 8-0-36-0; Haynes 12-1-34-2; Leatherdale 6-0-32-1

Sussex v Gloucestershire

HOVE (final day of four): Gloucestershire (23pts) beat Sussex (7) by 166 runs

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 220 (R I Dawson 38, M P Robinson 5 for 66)

Second Innings

M J Tolley lbw b Jarvis	0
M G N Windows b Khan	51
T H C Hancock b Nicholas	84
M J Cawdron c Edwards b Khan	16
R I Dawson c Peirce b Khan	1
*M W Alleyne lbw b Khan	17
†R C Russell not out	69
M C J Ball c Peirce b Robinson	15
A M Smith not out	2
Extras (b 9, lb 5, nb 12)	26
Total (7 wkts dec)	331

BOWLING: Jarvis 11-1-42-1; Edwards 10-1-39-0; Bates 15-1-48-0; Khan 27.4-8-126-5; Robinson 20-5-53-1; P Newell 7-3-9-1

SUSSEX: First Innings 304 (N P Taylor 74, M T E Peirce 73, P Moores 65; R P Davis 4 for 35)

Stephenson: 114 for Hants

Second Innings

M T E Peirce c Dawson b Ball	34
P W Rao c Ball b Lewis	0
N R Taylor c Windows b Ball	62
M Newell c Hancock b Davis	5
P Newell c Windows b Davis	4
*†P Moores not out	17
P W Jarvis c Alleyne b Ball	4
A A Khan c Hancock b Davis	0
J J Bates lbw b Ball	6
A D Edwards c Alleyne b Ball	0
M A Robinson b Davis	0
Extras (b 2, lb 3, nb 4)	9
Total	161

BOWLING: Smith 5-1-11-0; Lewis 8-2-24-1; Davis 29-13-35-4; Ball 30-7-66-5; Alleyne 5-3-10-0

Notts v Somerset

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of four): Nottinghamshire (11pts) drew with Somerset (10)

SOMERSET: First Innings 337 (M Burns 72, P C L Holloway 72, R J Turner 66, A R Caddick 4 for 53)

Second Innings

*P D Bowler c Noon b Oram	1
P C L Holloway c Astle b Tolley	23
S C Ecclestone b Afzaal	65
M N Lathwell c Evans b Tolley	47
M E Trescothick c Noon b Franks	81
M Burns c Noon b Tolley	33
†R J Turner not out	46
G D Rose not out	32
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 2)	9
Total (6 wkts dec)	338

BOWLING: Oram 15-4-46-1; Evans 15-3-70-0; Tolley 20.2-79-3; Franks 12-1-57-1; Afzaal 18-2-62-1; Astle 8-0-17-0

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 356 (S J Mullally 79)

Second Innings

M P Dowman b Rose	124
R T Robinson c Ecclestone b Shine	30
N J Astle lbw b Mushtaq	60
*P Johnson b Mushtaq	20
C M Tolley c Rose b Mushtaq	2
A A Metcalfe c Caddick b Rose	2
U Afzaal run out	11
†W M Noon not out	21
P J Franks run out	0
K P Evans lbw b Caddick	0
A R Oram not out	0
Extras (b 14, lb 13, w 2, nb 4)	33
Total (9 wkts)	305

BOWLING: Caddick 20-5-57-1; Rose 16-0-67-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 29-3-88-3; Barnett 2-0-7-0; Shine 9-0-59-1

TENNIS

Rusedski reaches new peak

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GREG RUSEDSKI has achieved a career-high position of No 23 in the latest world rankings after reaching the semi-finals of the Pilot Pen International tournament in New Haven, Connecticut at the weekend.

He has risen two places and is within sight of overtaking Tim Henman as the highest-ranked British player. Henman, a quarter-finalist in New Haven, has also climbed one spot to No 20, but his points total of 1,616 is only 65 better than that of Rusedski. If Rusedski does well at the ATP Tour event in Boston this week, he could overtake Henman, although the crunch may well come at the US Open, the last grand slam event of the season, which starts at Flushing Meadow, in New York, next Monday.

Henman reached the last 16 in 1996 before losing in four sets to Stefan Edberg, while Rusedski went out in the first round. That will mean added pressure for Henman, who gained 130 points for his efforts 12 months ago. An early defeat would mean a drop in the world lists, since he would lose the value of most of those points, while Rusedski will gain merely by advancing to the second round.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, has risen to third in the rankings after beating Patrick Rafter, of Australia, 7-6, 6-4 in the final in New Haven.

Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, won the RCA championship in Indianapolis by beating Carlos Moyà, of Spain, 6-3, 7-6 in the final.

Monica Seles captured her third successive Canadian Open title when she defeated Anke Huber, of Germany, 6-2, 6-4 in the final in Toronto.

SWIMMING: POPOV, THE OLYMPIC CHAMPION, RETURNS FOR RUSSIA AFTER LIFE-THREATENING INJURY

Smith shies from the eyes of media at Seville

FROM CRAIG LORD IN SEVILLE

THE woes that have beset Alexander Popov and Michelle Smith since their Olympic victories in Atlanta last year have helped to carve out conflicting greetings in Seville for the leading protagonists of the pool at the European championships.

Popov, 25, the Russian who became the first man since Johnny "Tarzan" Weissmuller in 1928 to retain the Olympic 100 metres freestyle title, had a knife driven through his stomach in a Moscow street in August last year.

He received a warm welcome here and capitalised on his popularity at a press conference in which he talked through his year, his marriage and his forthcoming fatherhood.

Smith, 27, has had the questions of coaches, swimmers and journalists driven through her with the ferocity of the knife that pierced Popov. Her arrival here has coincided with a hearing at which Erik de Bruin, her husband and coach, has been asked to explain why he assumed a false name when accompanying Smith to doping control at the 1995 championships. The incident occurred while de Bruin was serving a four-year suspension for a positive drugs test, which expired this month. Smith refused to give a press conference and Irish officials said she would not give interviews until after her races. Then, if she faced too many drug-related questions, she would abandon the championships, one official said.

Smith: no press conference

Popov will stay, come what may. His speed may be better than ever, thanks to work on his technique and flexibility exercises to stretch the tissues around the 10in scar on his stomach. He has regained the 7kg in weight he lost in 13 days in hospital after his life-saving operation, and said: "It was my body, not my soul, that was damaged. So the doctors can do their job and . . . there you go."

Popov returned to the water in November and has slowly built back to his pre-Atlanta workload. His stamina and lack of race fitness were his only concerns, he said, but he believed he could "produce a couple of very good times here". For Popov, a very good time means a fight for the minor places by the rest of the field.

The Russian has been working with Gennadi Touretski, his coach, on the "kayak principle", which means there is no "dead zone" of lost energy in a freestyler's stroke. Perpetual motion is possible, Popov said, because "the water is your friend . . . you don't have to fight with water, just share the same spirit as the water and it will help you move".

Smith may not have to move as fast as she did in Atlanta to win the 400 metres medley today, the first of six races she has entered under her married name, with opposition not as keen at European level.

She may find a stiffer test at the post-race press conference. Smith has instructed her solicitor to write to several media organisations this year threatening legal action if speculation about her does not cease. Yet the questions — which did not start in Atlanta with the Americans, but began in 1994, when she made her first big improvement — refuse to go away.

Popov: perpetual motion

The reason is clear: Smith is an anomaly in her sport, the pattern of her progress late in a long swimming career is unprecedented. How can a 26-year-old woman who has never swum an international championship race over 400 metres freestyle (or, for that matter, any other freestyle distance) and whose best time of 4min 26sec set her outside the best 150 swimmers in the world in 1995, clock 4min 07.25sec to become Olympic champion in 1996?

The answers she has given — hard training, a weights programme, use of training methods employed in athletics and specialised diets — have not silenced the critics.

For Britain, there have been no medals in the diving, open water, synchro or water-polo here, but hopes are high. Best bets rest on Graeme Smith, of Stockport, who was third behind two Australians in the 1,500 metres freestyle in Atlanta last year. Victory in Seville would make him the first, and only other, British winner of the title since Ian Black in 1958.

Britain's other Olympic medal-winner, Paul Palmer, is aiming to improve on the silver medals he has won in the 400 metres freestyle at the last two European championships, while James Hickman, Smith's training partner, is a medal hope in both butterfly events, along with Stephen Parry, of Liverpool. Hickman, however, was under medical supervision for a stomach upset last week.

Kovacs defies hot water torture to reign in Spain

Long-distance swimming can be a great leveller, as Craig Lord discovers at the European championships

In one of the great equalisers of the sexes in sport, Europe's fastest men in open-water swimming were shown no mercy in the murky millpond of the Guadalquivir River. As dawn spilt over one of Spain's most scenic cities, temperatures soared quickly to 42C during the men's 25 kilometres at the European championships and, after five kilometres, the sun was burning their backs as the clock told a cruel truth — the first to reach that point in the women's race 48 hours earlier had done so a minute more quickly.

Women often beat men in these aquatic encounters. They can last longer than a men's singles final at Wimbledon, but with no similar break between games with a welcoming chair and a drink of barley water. Instead, swimmers tread water while sipping from a bottle. Biting into a banana in mid-race is a balancing act second to none — and is also the least of a swimmer's worries. If the searing sun fails to penetrate the sun-block and grease, then there is the bath-like water temperature of 30C to contend with. Then there is the mental struggle and, if you are Rita Kovacs, a fractured sternum to overcome.

The Hungarian swam a race of 88 kilometres in the Parana River in Argentina four months ago. It was her fourth race there, and her fastest, at just over 9hr 46min. The efforts caused the fracture. Unable to swim, Kovacs took up jogging to maintain her fitness and her efforts paid off on Friday, when she won the 25 kilometres event in 5hr 21min 58sec, a time which would have given her tenth place in the men's race. Did it not hurt? "Sure, but I just kept thinking, 'I must win, I have to win'. Anything else is too weak."

Weak like the men, perhaps? "Well, there are always about two or three men who beat me in most races. It's possible for women to beat them. We can keep going longer," she said.

Kovacs was disparaging of the "fair play" in the 25 kilometres for men in which Stephane Lecat, of France, and Christof Wandratsch, of Germany, swam stroke for stroke for more than five hours before clasping hands to finish joint-second. "It's the Europeans [championships] — they should have fought," she said.

Justin Palfry, the British champion, from the City of Cardiff club, finished twelfth. The winner was Alexei Akatiev, 23, of Russia, who had retained his five kilometres title on Friday. His early pace was slower than the women's race, but he said: "I had a lot left at 20 kilometres." Akatiev improved on his silver medal in 1995 to win in 5hr 5min.

The women's five kilometres race was won by Peggy Busche, of Germany, who finished 1sec ahead of Valeria Caprini, of Italy, with Kovacs third. Caprini had also finished second in the 25 kilometres, behind Kovacs.

Paula Wood, in her first international for Britain, swam faster than the British men to finish seventh in the five kilometres in 1hr 1min 19sec, just 28sec behind the winner. Wood and her like will no longer be faced by Kovacs, however. She will retire after races this month in Macedonia and Croatia and is soon to marry.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Goodway to get the nod for Britain

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ANDY GOODWAY is strongly tipped to take charge of coaching Great Britain against Australia in November. The choice of Joe Lydon, the Rugby Football League (RFL) technical director, will be endorsed by the League's board of directors and confirmed at the end of the Stones Super League season later this month.

Goodway, 36, the former Wigan and Britain forward, after being dismissed by Oldham Bears, was entrusted in May with steering Paris Saint-Germain clear of relegation. Lydon reportedly wants Goodway as part of an all-English set-up, with himself as team manager and two assistants — John Joyner, the former Castleford coach, and Brian Noble, the Bradford Bulls assistant and a former Britain captain.

Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said Lydon's recommendation simply needed to be rubber-stamped. Goodway's analytical approach is believed to have swayed Lydon ahead of Eric Hughes, of Wigan, and Andy Gregory, of Salford.

The five-man board meeting next week will also discuss relocating to London to raise rugby league's profile. Red Hall, in Leeds, the RFL headquarters, would be retained as an administrative base.

St Helens have rejected a transfer request by Alan Hunte, the Britain centre. The news comes after Bobbie Goulding was deposed as captain last week.

Bradford, the new Super League champions, are on course to beat the record average home attendance for the season, with 14,747, which compares with 14,561, Wigan's best in 1993-94.

John Hopkins, golf correspondent, salutes a true gentleman

Noble Love follows in ways of father

Davis Love III is one of the noblemen of American golf. He has the bearing, breeding and manners appropriate to professional golf's leading families and there was great celebration on Sunday evening, both at the manner of his victory in the US PGA Championship and that it was achieved at Winged Foot.

Love, who is 33, is tall, pallid and gangly. He has the slightly awkward manner that extremely polite people have. You feel that even if his house was on fire, he would have difficulty in disengaging himself from a conversation for fear of appearing brusque.

Love lives his life through his father, Davis Love Jr, a touring professional who led several major championships without winning any before becoming a renowned teaching professional. Davis Love Jr brought his son up to be a golfer in a way that was not unlike Earl Woods and Tiger years later. "Follow your dreams. Enjoy the trip," Love told his son.

For years, Davis did just that. He was a good ice hockey player and a very good golfer and, when he was ten, he went to the US PGA Championship with his father in 1974. Love's rounds were 82 and 74 and he did not survive to the last two days.

Young Davis had seen enough. He was dazzled by the players that he was introduced to, such as Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino and Arnold Palmer, and by what he saw and heard. "Man, this is the life," he would write later in his autobiography. "All the stars were there and my father knew them and they knew him. After that, I started playing more."

He had a natural talent. He was scoring in the 90s at the age of ten. By 11 it was in the 80s and by 12 in the 70s. At 13, he decided that he wanted to turn professional. "How hard are you prepared to work?" his father asked him. When he turned pro, his father said: "Do what Tom Kite does." For four days last week, Love played superb golf and was rewarded both with a place on Kite's team in the Ryder Cup next month and victory in his first major championship.

He had come close before — in the 1995 Masters, one stroke behind Ben Crenshaw, and in the 1996 US Open, one stroke behind Steve Jones after three-putting the 72nd green. This made it all the sweeter. So did the sight of the rainbow as he played the 72nd hole at Winged Foot. When he won the Players' Championship in 1992, a rainbow appeared on the final hole as well.

> 'He was dazzled by the players he met'

Mark Love, his brother, was the first to congratulate him. Mark is also his caddy and has been for eight years. One of the next to embrace the tall American was Pinta Love, his mother. In fact, only one person was missing, but that was the person Davis Love III would have wanted to see him win most of all — his father.

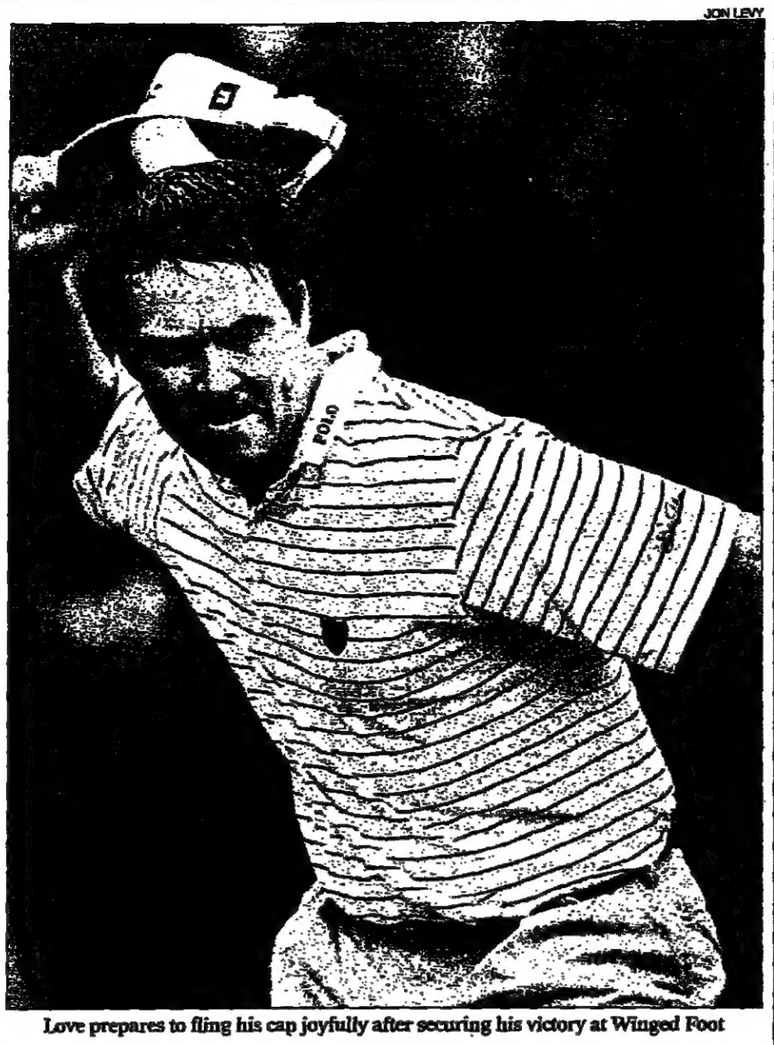
Davis Love Jr had been an assistant at Winged Foot Golf Club, one of many talented young men who were given their final polishing by Claude Harman, the legendary head pro at the club. After retiring from competitive play, Love became a successful teacher and it was while flying to a teaching school in 1988 that he was killed in an air crash. The loss his son felt was enormous. He had lost a dominant father, a friend and his teacher.

His father had numerous drills for young Davis to follow. One was to make him hit balls 100 yards, then 120 yards and then 150 yards with a driver. This way, Davis learnt about rhythm and control. "Everyone on tour has some story to tell about my father," Love said. "The difference with me was that my father was also my teacher."

On Sunday, Love was asked what his father would have said to him about winning the US PGA. "He would have said I won it because it was my time and I was overdue," Love said, "but he was not one to sit back and rest. He loved the sport. He would want me to get back to work."

Love will get back to work in the Ryder Cup next month, his third appearance in the competition. Twice he has beaten Costantino Rocca in the singles in 1993 after being one done with three holes to play. After losing his lead, Rocca broke down in tears and retired to the clubhouse. Love was being interviewed when he asked: "Where's Costantino?" Upon being told what had happened, Love, quietly but courteously, said: "I'm sorry. I must go and see Costantino." And one of the game's gentlemen went off to console his opponent.

JON LEVY



Love prepares to fling his cap joyfully after securing his victory at Winged Foot

FINAL SCORES FROM WINGED FOOT

United States unless stated

269: D Love III 66, 71, 55, 66. 274: J Leonard 68, 70, 65, 71. 276: J Maggert 69, 69, 73, 65. 279: L Janzen 69, 67, 74, 69. 280: T Kite 68, 71, 71, 70. 281: J Furyk 69, 72, 72, 68; P Blackmar 70, 68, 74, 69, S Hoch 71, 72, 68, 70. 282: T Byrum 69, 73, 70, 70. 283: T Lehman 69, 72, 72, 70, J Sindelar 72, 71, 71, 69; S McCarron 74, 71, 67, 71.

284: T Tolles 75, 70, 73, 66; M O'Meara 69, 73, 75, 67, R Tway 68, 75, 72, 69, V Singh (Fiji) 73, 66, 76, 69; N Price (Zim) 72, 70, 72, 70; K Triplett 73, 70, 71, 70; G Norman (Aus) 68, 71, 74, 71; T Herron 72, 73, 68, 71, C Montgomerie (GB) 74, 71, 67, 72; D Duval 70, 70, 71, 73. 285: D Martin 69, 75, 74, 67, M Calcavecchia 71, 74, 73, 67; J Cook 71, 71, 74, 69; B Langer (Ger) 73, 71, 72, 69; K Perry 73, 68, 73, 71; S Maruyama (Japan) 68, 70, 74, 73.

286: J Daly 66, 73, 77, 70; H Irwin 73, 70, 71, 72; D Pooley 72, 74, 70, 70; R Black 76, 69, 71, 70; L Westwood (GB) 74, 68, 71, 73; P Goydos 70, 72, 71, 73; P Stewart 70, 70, 72, 74; P Azinger 69, 73, 71, 74; T Woods 70, 70, 71, 75, P Mickelson 69, 69, 73, 75; F Nobilo (NZ) 72, 73, 67, 74; F Couples 71, 67, 73, 75. 287: S Jones 69, 73, 75, 70; D Ogrin 74, 72, 71, 70; I Garrido (Sp) 70, 71, 75, 71; E Romero (Arg) 71, 72, 72, 72.

288: T Bjorn (Den) 72, 68, 77, 71; J Parnevik (Swe) 76, 70, 71, 71; S Torrance (GB) 74, 72, 70, 72; S Ellington (Aus) 72, 72, 70, 74. 289: L Roberts 76, 70, 74, 69; R Allenby (Aus) 67, 77, 74, 71; B Henninger 74, 68, 75, 72; C Perry 68, 71, 73, 77. 290: E Els (SA) 70, 76, 74, 70; B Mayfair 75, 68, 75, 72; C Stadler 72, 72, 74, 72; O Browne 70, 73, 74, 73, T Smith 71, 71, 74, 74.

291: L Wadkins 72, 72, 77, 70; S Lowery 72, 69, 79, 71; L Mize 71, 73, 73, 74. 292: F Funk 71, 74, 77, 70; R Cochran 72, 73, 72, 75; Lee Rinker 70, 71, 73, 76; R Goosen (SA) 72, 70, 74, 76; S Appleby (Aus) 75, 70, 69, 78; J Haas 71, 69, 73, 79. 293: P Jacobsen 74, 72, 75, 72; P Stankowski 68, 71, 77, 77; P-U Johansson (Swe) 73, 69, 73, 78.

294: C Franco (Par) 69, 74, 76, 75. 295: M Bradley 73, 69, 80, 73; L Nelson 76, 70, 76, 73; Y Kaneko (Japan) 72, 73, 76, 74, C Rocca (It) 69, 69, 79, 78. 296: A Magee 71, 70, 80, 75. 297: P Jordan 76, 70, 75, 76; K Sutherland 73, 73, 73, 78.

Webb-site wonder for Haller

Patricia Davies on how Internet may lift British Open champion to No 1 spot

Webb: avoids attention

Kelvin Haller was just settling down to enjoy the highlights of the Weetabix Women's British Open Championship at home in Queensland yesterday morning when the telephone rang for the umpteenth time. It was Karrie Webb, the champion herself, calling to give Haller, her coach, a blow-by-blow account of the proceedings.

"She gave me a pretty good assessment," Haller, who watched the action later, said. "It was an absolutely superb performance."

Ayr, Webb's home town (population 9,000-ish), is a long way from most places, particularly Sunningdale, and two accidents, one geographical, the other crippling, dictate that Haller's approach to coaching is not as hands-on as he would like. "It's frustrating," Haller, who has been in a wheelchair since an accident seven years ago, said. "My movement is very restricted and, when I'm teaching, I can't show the kids what to do. I just have to explain it all."

He confessed that the brain "and the mouth" worked overtime in compensation and, if Webb is the prime example, Haller's methods could not be sounder. Players and television analysts drool over her action.

"It's a natural golf swing and there are not a lot of things that can go wrong with it," Haller, who has coached Webb since she started playing as a child, said. "I have a look at her at the end of the year when she comes back home, but it's a long way between drinks."

They talk a lot on the telephone, but Haller is hoping that some modern technological magic will help him keep a closer eye on his star pupil. Someone has devised a programme that will enable Webb to video her swing wherever she happens to be in the world and download it via the Internet to Ayr. "I'll be able to view her swing and pick it to pieces," Haller said, keeping tabs on the world-wide Webb in more ways than one.

Haller is not a professional, but he was a three-handicapper in his younger days. His parents had a newsagents' store and he used to devour every golf publication that passed through it, absorbing the instruction articles.

Now he spends a lot of time working with the juniors — there are about 80, in a club with just over 200 members — and they have their very own role model in the girl from Ayr who is soaring to new heights. Webb is still only 22, but, after winning her first British Open title in 1995, her rookie year in Europe, she won four times in the United States last year and was No 1 on the money-list, the first woman to win more than $1 million in one season.

This season, in 19 events, she has won twice, been in the top three eight times (and in the top ten 16 times) and is already 128 under par. She wants to be the best player in the world (she is currently ranked No 2, behind Annika Sorenstam) and could be the Nancy Lopez of the Nineties, except that she does not revel in the attention. Webb prefers to keep her personality tucked under her baseball cap, shielded by her dark glasses.

Burhill make amends for Briggs family

AUDREY BRIGGS and her son, Laurie, 14, will be back in the Family Foursomes, at Burhill, Surrey, today a year after they were controversially barred from the event.

Dick Richards, the former Burhill secretary, banned them after a report that Brazilian-born Laurie was adopted. Richards claimed the event was for blood relations only.

The report, however, proved untrue and Richards was forced to resign as a result of the adverse publicity. Burhill officials subsequently apologised to the family, from the Royal Liverpool club, and invited them back this year. They face the Nugents, of Hindhead, in the first round.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

HOLFERNES
(c) The pedantic schoolmaster in *Love's Labour's Lost*. A friend of Sir Nathaniel, he devises the pageant of the Nine Worthies to entertain the court (and plays at least three of them himself). He is a linguistic precisian — someone says of him and Sir Nathaniel, "They have been at a great feast of languages, and stolen the scraps" — and polysyllables and Latin tags float in his speech like twigs in a river.

SEBASTIAN
(a) Viola's twin brother in *Twelfth Night*. At first a stuffy hero, a mixture of gush and abruptness ("My kind Antonio, I can no other answer make but thanks./ and ever thanks. . . What's to do?/ Shall we go see the relics of this town?"

CHARMIAN
(b) Cleopatra's confidential maid, a cheerful, giggly girl whose ambition (or so she tells the Soothsayer) is "to be married to three kings in a forenoon, and widow them all".

PANDULPH
(c) A Cardinal. Emissary of the Pope. In *King John* he excommunicates John (for failing to accept the Pope's nominee as Archbishop of Canterbury) and stirs up the French to attack England. Then, when John recants, he tries unavailingly to order the French back home and end the war. He is a silky diplomat with a touch of steel and logorrhea.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Nxe4 2 Qa4+ Bd7! 3 Qxe4 Bh5 and White loses rook for bishop.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Merchant found in drink

Cadfael
ITV, 8.30pm

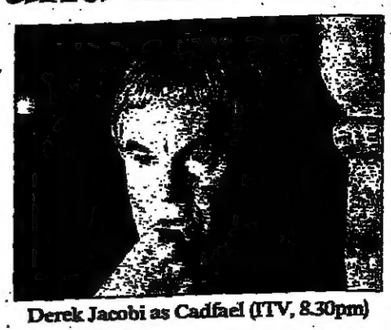
St Peter's Fair arrives in Shrewsbury, setting up tensions between the visiting merchants and the local shopkeepers who resent having to close for the duration. When Thomas of Bristol, a wine merchant, is found floating in the Severn, the forces of law and order, as they do to this day, go for the obvious suspect. But connoisseurs of detective stories, even ones set in the 12th century, will instinctively know that the cobbler's son is not the murderer. They may also have a shrewd idea who is, though the solution carefully extracted by Derek Jacobi's monk-cum-detective is so tangled and clever that only a genius could spot it. This is another very polished adaptation, balancing plot and character in just the right measure and brilliantly turning a corner of present-day Hungary into medieval England.

Hungerford Ten Years On
BBC2, 9.30pm

As anniversaries go, Hungerford is one of the bleakest, though it is said that to grieve openly, even in front of television cameras, is a way of coming to terms with tragedy. Lucy Jago's film is inevitably painful but she handles a difficult subject with tact. We are assured that all the contributions were freely made. The idea for the documentary, in fact, came from Tony Hill, whose daughter Sandra was one of 16 people killed by the gunman Michael Ryan. Hill is one of the main witnesses. We hear, too, from Trevor Wainwright, the policeman who came in on his day off to be told that his father had been shot dead, and from the family of Susan Godfrey, a mother of two and the first to die. Surprisingly, little anger is directed at Ryan. Instead there is an irrational feeling of guilt at not being able to do more to stop him.

Plane Crazy
Channel 4, 10.00pm

Whether he had a television series in mind is not revealed but Bob Cringely's decision to design, build and fly a plane in 30 days is a heaven-sent subject. A writer who runs two computer businesses from Silicon Valley in California, Cringely has built planes before but not in such a short time. His friends think he is mad. So does his girlfriend. He takes his blueprint to an expert who rejects it in almost every detail. Cringely, though, is a resilient character, even if he has been in therapy for 13 years. With a budget of only $15,000 he has to spend wisely, which means getting his engine from a car scrapyard. He sets about building the fibreglass body in his garage. But he soon falls behind schedule and there are plenty of hints of disasters yet to come.



Derek Jacobi as Cadfael (ITV, 8.30pm)

Rock Cults: The Artist Formerly Known as Captain Beefheart
BBC2, 11.15pm

Don Van Vliet, alias Captain Beefheart, may not be a name to conjure with these days. But for John Peel, not a bad judge, he was "the most important figure to have emerged from the rock era of the 1960s and 1970s". Peel goes even further, calling him "possibly rock's only genius". A musician with no formal training, Captain Beefheart was a maverick of volatile temperament whose strange and provocative compositions mixed rock, blues and free jazz with a touch of Dada. He is recalled by admirers such as the guitarist and a former collaborator, Ry Cooder, and Matt Groening, creator of *The Simpsons*. Captain Beefheart himself appears only from the archives. He gave up music to concentrate on painting and in recent years, suffering from long-term illness, he has become a recluse.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Tales from the Back of Beyond
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

Two distinct strands have opened up in broadcast travel programmes over the past decade. There has been a continuation, without a loss of popularity, of the beach-and-hotel type, which is aimed mostly at families. Much more interesting, and represented by this new series, is the programme that is more to do with travel than holidaying, and pretty vexatious travelling at that. Today four young explorers describe their attempt to rendezvous with wild camels in China's Taklimakan Desert, but it is the tensions between Belinda, Annette, Steve and Ian that really bring the programme to life. There is an inversion of stereotyping, with the two boys anxious to give up the battle and the girls, particularly Belinda, determined to press on.

Labelled for Life
Radio 4, 7.20pm

Programmes about miscarriages of justice are two a penny, but this one gets beyond the legalistic matters to investigate how the victims of such miscarriages actually conduct their lives once they are freed. The three men interviewed by Jenny Cuffe, who also talks to their families, friends and lawyers, all went to jail for murders they did not commit. They include Jim Robinson, of the Bridgewater Four, who comes across as the most bitter of the three: he is convinced that the only regret felt by the authorities is the regret of having to release him. Jonathan Jones, wrongly convicted of killing his girlfriend's parents, talks movingly of his anger, which he knows is destructive; what he does not know is how to get rid of it.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow. Live from Plymouth 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jo Whiley 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 9.30 Digital Update 9.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Carl Davis Classics 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Jazz Score. The jazz quiz chaired by Benny Green 9.30 Gerard Hoffnung 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Patrick Lunt

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday News 2.00 Rugby on Five 4.00 Julian Worricker Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Tuesday Match with Ian Payne 10.00 5 Live at the Fringe. More highlights from the Festival Fringe presented by Janice Forsyth 11.00 News Extra with Valerie Sanderson 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Anna Raeburn 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newshour 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 World Today 7.30 Songs of the Sufi Mystics 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 What's News 8.45 The Lab 9.00 News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Earth, Air, Fire And Water 9.30 Everywoman 10.05 Business 10.15 The Orchestra 10.30 Literature File 10.45 Sport 11.30 On Screen 12.30pm Songs of the Sufi Mystics 1.00 News in German 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Health Matters 1.45 Sport 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Sport 4.15 Earth, Air, Fire And Water 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 The World Today 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 One Planet 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Megamix 9.00 Newshour 10.05 Business 10.15 British Today 10.30 Meridian Live 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Megamix 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Discovery 3.30 Meridian Live 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

3.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Hall of Fame 1.00pm 'Listeners' Requests 2.00 Concerto. Saint-Saëns (Cello Concerto No 3 in A minor, Op 33) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newnight 7.30 Sonata. Feld (Flute Sonata) 8.00 Evening Concert. Schubert (Symphony No 8 in B minor); Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto No 1); Strauss (Suite: Der Rosenkavalier) 10.00 Michael Muppin 2.00am Concerto (r).

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nick Abbot 6.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air**, with Penny Gore. Includes Locatelli (Concerto Grosso in E flat, Op 7 No 6); Dvořák (Waltzes, Op 54: No 1 in A; No 4 in D flat); Stradella (Sonata in D); Chabrier (Espana); Vivaldi (Concerto in G minor); Holst (A Fugal Concerto)
9.00 **Morning Collection**, with Catriona Young. Includes Mozart (Serenade in D, K286); Dowland (Come y Heavy States of Night); Stenhammar (Serenade in F)
10.00 **Musical Encounters**. Live from the Edinburgh Festival. Includes Vivaldi (Gloria in D, RV589); Copland (The Little Horses); Schubert (Impromptu in A flat, D935 No 2); Breton (La Verbena de la Paloma, excerpt); Mahler, arr Berio (Five Early Songs); Billings (Chesterfield); Barber (Dover Beach); Liszt (Après une Lecture de Dante, Années de Pèlerinage)
12.00 **Proms Composer of the Week: Britten**
1.00pm **News; Summer Ensemble**. In the first of two programmes, introduced by John Thomley, the Audubon Quartet performs Beethoven (String Quartet in C minor, Op 18 No 4); Dohnanyi (String Quartet No 2 in D flat, Op 15) (r)
2.00 **BBC Proms 97**. Another chance to hear Wednesday's concert. The BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis. With Viktoria Mullova, violin
4.10 **Britten and Schumann**. A recital by the Nash Ensemble and the tenor Martyn Hill. Includes Britten (Six Hölderlin Fragments); Schumann (Piano Quintet in E flat, Op 44) (r)
5.00 **Music Machine**. Tommy Pearson explores the use of introductions in popular music (r)
5.15 **In Tune**. Live from the Edinburgh Festival. Includes a selection of Schumann (Etudes Symphoniques, selection); Bellini (La Sonnambula, excerpt); Shostakovich (Five Satires)
7.00 **BBC Proms 97**. Thomas Zehetmair, viola, Patricia Bardon, mezzo, Paul Charles Clarke, tenor, Thomas Hampson, baritone, Neal Davies, bass. Choir of the Enlightenment, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, under Mark Elder. Beethoven (Overture: Zur Namensfeier); Mendelssohn (Die erste Walpurgisnacht) 7.45 The Flesh Made Word. The Former nun Karen Armstrong discusses the difficulties of trying to put God into words. She also points out that being animals with the power of speech, we cannot stop 8.05 Concert, part two. Berlioz (Harold in Italy)
9.10 **Still Life with Kazin**. Russell Davies joins Alfred Kazin as he remembers his radical youth in the New York of the 1930s (2/5) (r)
9.35 **Al Fresco**. Bartok's Suite *Out of Doors* performed by the pianist Dezso Ranki
10.00 **BBC Proms 97**. Michael Thompson, horn, London Sinfonietta, under Markus Stenz. Oliver Knussen (Two Organa); Simon Bainbridge (Landscape and Memory); Harrison Birtwistle (Ritual Fragment); George Benjamin (Three Inventions); Thomas Adès (Living Toys)
11.30 **Proms Composer of the Week: Bartok** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes**. Campbell Burnap features Thelonius Monk and Bud Powell in this week's survey of great jazz pianists
1.00 **Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod. Includes 1.00 Silesian Quartet, Janacek (String Quartet No 1); Szymanowski (String Quartet No 2); Bartok (String Quartet No 4) 2.05 Traditional Music from Poland 3.25 Shanghai SO, under Renato Palumbo. With Sequeira Costa, piano. Beethoven (Overture: Leonora No 3; Piano Concertos: No 1 in C; No 3 in C minor) 5.00 Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping Forecast (LW)** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today. Includes Sports News and Thought for the Day 8.45 Every Secret Thing. Written by Gillian Slovo (2/5) 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Call Peter White**. Telephone 0171-580 4444 with your questions fro the guest of the day
10.00 **News; Tales From the Back of Beyond**. See Choice (1/6)
10.00 **Daily Service (LW)**
10.15 **On This Day (LW)**
10.30 **Woman's Hour**, with Jenni Murray
11.30 **Medicine Now**. The weekly review of the healthcare system with Geoff Watts
12.00 **News; You and Yours**. Consumer news and current affairs with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm **Wordly Wise**. Panelists Susan Jeffreys, Graham Norton, Jim Tavare and Richard Vranch explore the origins of words. Chaired by Peter Hobday 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**, with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Sci Fi — Fiction Science not Science Fiction**. The geneticist Steve Jones discusses *Middlemarch* with Dr Jonathan Miller, who argues that Lydgate's ambitious research into disease is central to the tale
2.30 **Just the Part**. Dame Joan Sutherland talks to the *Times* opera critic, Rodney Milnes, about singing all four soprano roles in Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffman* (6/6)
3.00 **The Afternoon Shift**, with Daire Brehen
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope**. Paul Vaughan talks to the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber about his work with the composers Walton and Britten. Plus a review of the new books by Iain Banks and Christopher Hope
4.45 **Short Story: An Actor's Tale — Director**. Written and read by Steven Berkoff
5.00 **PM**, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Nigel Wrench 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **Rent**, by Lucy Flannery: The Reynolds family and their lodgers return for a new six-part series of the award-winning sitcom. With Barbar Flynn, Patrick Barlow and Linda Polan (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **Labelled for Life**. See Choice
8.00 **Science Now**. A look at the latest scientific developments with Richard Black (r)
8.30 **Every Breath You Take**. The myths and superstitions surrounding breath. Ian Peacock looks at how the many beliefs and fears about breathing affect our lives
9.00 **In Touch**. Peter White with news and features for visually impaired people
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Allan Little
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Midnight's Children**, by Salman Rushdie. Read by Roshen Seth (7/15)
11.00 **Mediumwave**. A roundup of the week's events in the media (r)
11.30 **A History of Britain in Six Menus (FM)**. The last in the series in which Leslie Forbes travels through history in serach of a good meal. This week a 20th-century snack is the chosen delicacy (6/6) (r)
12.00 **News** incl 12.27am approx Weather
12.30am **The Late Book: Biggest Elvis**, by P.F. Kluge. Read by Ron Berglas (7/10) (r)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast**
1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

The massed masochists of the Midlands

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

Get this. Every year, on the *last, iciest Sunday in January*, when the flattened cowpats are frozen so hard you could throw them like discuses, 2,000 men and women gather in a field near Wolverhampton to compete in a remarkable *event* — a gruelling cross-country-race-cum-assault-course in which they have to run for miles, crawl under barbed wire, swim underwater through mud, climb rockfaces, walk across tightropes and swim through a tunnel of freezing water.

What makes it remarkable is not the sadistic design of the obstacle course, but that nobody has forced any of these people to do all these preposterous things. It's like an *It's a Knockout* tournament that some prankster devised as a cruel joke to play on a bunch of over-trusting, care-in-the-community patients.

"Everybody gets away from the world in their own little way," Billy Wilson explained to us on **Tough Going**, the second of Channel 4's *Short Stories* showcase for documentary film directors. Wilson, a former *Coldstream Guard*, doesn't actually take part *in the race*. He's the organiser.

"A personal way of finding a path out of the wicked world, that's *what it's about*." Wilson's personal way seems to be exacting revenge for the pointlessly brutal assault courses he was forced to tackle during his Guards career by *inflicting similar* torture on the blameless people of Wolverhampton.

"I stand here and I can't believe people are doing it, you know, *some of the things* we tell them to do. They're like lemmings, they really are. I knew four or five years ago that if we built a great pit, or a *mountain*, or whatever, they would go over the edge of it, one after the other. The harder we push them, the more they love it, *the more* they come back. They *want the punishment.*" Wilson, *grey-haired*, and kitted out *in his* country gentleman's gear, dog by his side, looks as harmless as, say, Laurence Olivier in *Marathon Man. But if they introduce* a "dentist's chair" segment in the race, call the authorities.

Don't believe it's that bad? Listen to *Wilson explaining* the tunnel of freezing water: "The heat of the body rushes to the head and the head explodes into one almighty headache. They wonder what the devil's hit them. It's a concussion state." Perhaps the competitors don't feel any ill-effects from this abuse. *Maybe it's a version of Catch-22*: competitors can't possibly be sensitive enough to feel normal pain: if they were that sensitive, they wouldn't have been crazy enough to enter in the first place.

Ann Ward, one of the annual Wolverhampton wanderers, tells us: "We all need things *in our lives* to stop it being flat. Nobody likes a flat life." Ward, a housewife and mother, is competing for the third year in a row: "It's that strange mix of pain and pleasure that makes it thrilling, really, because I think pain and pleasure together equal *thrill*." Not the sort of arithmetic they taught in my school. "Where do you get thrills these days? A real thrill that you can feel?" Putting it another way, if you're planning to move to the Wolverhampton area *and you're not the hardy type*, bring hard drugs.

And what did Kate Hircock, a Boots shop assistant, think of her *debut circuit*? "*It was an experience.* Let's just leave it at that!" You couldn't sum up Debbie Shuter's fine film any better, though she *might have earned more money had she* sold her *film* to Wolverhampton's Chamber of Commerce: it could use it to entice Japanese manufacturers to Wolverhampton, *on the ground* that the local workforce seems to have much in common with the masochistic contestants on the Japanese game show *Endurance*.

If Billy Wilson was watching last night's **Preston Front** (BBC1), Wolverhampton would do well to prepare for a novel addition to next year's event: *watermelon* rugby. Mess rugby, with a watermelon for a ball, was the traditional after-dinner entertainment at the Roker *Bridge TA's annual regimental dinner*. Of course, it won't be quite so messy in Billy Wilson's version because he'll probably take the precaution of *freezing the melons as hard as cannonballs first*.

Ally (Kate Garside), having just left her two-timing *husband, is already in a* foul mood before arriving at the dinner to learn that Rundle (Keiran Flynn) — with whom she was planning to console herself — had arranged a job transfer to Cornwall, having convinced himself that Ally would never be his. Luckily, the abrasive Polson *(David MacCreedy)* was there to soak up her venom. Ally makes sure that Polson gets more than his share of melon flesh in the face. But the chaos in the mess hall is nothing compared to the emotional chaos elsewhere as friendships and partnerships crumble with the slow, gruesome *predictability of formal tragedy. Tim Firth's script* is as sour-sweet as one of Mr Wang's sauces, which is what gives the series its tang.

Probably more classic than the other albums so far feted in the series **Classic Albums** (BBC1). The Band's album, *The Band* continues to sound fresh. The American *critic Greil Marcus said their* music "gave us a sure sense that the country was richer than we had guessed". They owed much to *blues, country and the music of the* Deep South, but somehow created a sound all of their own. They even looked different: while everyone in the 1960s was wearing *purple satin loons and yellow shirts*, they looked like a band of Bonnie and Clyde bank robbers. George Harrison told us that he hasn't taken *The Band* album off his personal jukebox at home for years. But then maybe he's just getting lazy in his old age.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (57971)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (32529)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5086600)

9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T) (5130890)

9.50 Esther (r) (T) (6033277)

10.20 Put It to the Test (5000548)

10.45 Carrier's Caribbean (r) (2992242)

11.00 News; Regional News (T) and weather (2836093)

11.05 Due South Fraser is held hostage on a *runaway train by a gang of homicidal terrorists* (r) (T) (2430664)

11.50 Good Neighbours (6695567)

12.00 News; Regional News (T) and weather (4401093)

12.05pm *Wipeout* (r) (T) (8597797)

12.35 Neighbours (T) (1992567)

1.00 News (T) and weather (35616)

1.30 Regional News (T) and weather (88785884)

1.40 A Twist of the Knife with Dick Van Dyke, Cynthia Gibb and Stephen Caffrey. A female doctor's patient dies mysteriously during a demonstration of a revolutionary *new surgical technique. Directed by* Jerry London (T) (4931548)

3.10 Quincy (1888616)

4.00 Popeye (2881971) **4.10** Rugrats (7074723) **4.35** Pirates (2246172) **5.00** Newsround (T) (2490513) **5.10** Byker Grove (r) (T) (3341426)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (233155)

6.00 News (T) and weather (906)

6.30 Regional News Magazine (T) (258)

7.00 Holidays Out Ideas for things to do during the summer, including the prewar pleasure beach at Le Touquet, Canadian-style canoeing in Scotland, Cornwall's monkey colony and the Silverstone motor racing circuit (T) (3432)

7.30 EastEnders Bianca tries to settle *Tiffany's nerves by filling her head with* romantic thoughts of Paris (T) (242)

8.00 Wildlife on One: The Beetles — Record Breakers David Attenborough explores an evolutionary success story. Beetles have adopted a variety of survival strategies and make up a seventh of the animal and insect population of Britain (T) (2180)

8.30 Keeping Up Appearances Hyacinth discovers a passionate urge to lend her talents to the finer arts (r) (T) (8987)

9.00 News, Regional News (T) and weather (6857)

9.30 Jobs for the Girls: Pauline and Linda Plan a Party Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson organise a star-studded ball in aid of the Duchess of York's charity Children in Crisis (r) (T) (32069)

10.30 The X Files: Soft Light Scully and Mulder investigate the disappearance of a tobacco company executive, with a pile of ash by the victim's door the only lead (r) (T) (580155)

11.15 Sticky Fingers (1988) with Helen Slater, Melanie Mayron and Eileen Brennan. Two struggling *musicians* go on a spending spree with money entrusted to them by a notorious drug dealer. Directed by Catlin Adams (694987)

12.40am-12.45 Weather (3914372)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Toulouse — Money and Power in Provincial France (9174557) **6.25** Jean-Jacques Rousseau (T) (1779044) **6.50** Holidays by the Sea (9138906)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (9988987)

7.30 Teletubbies (r) (4388109) **7.55** Bump (r) (6688432) **8.00** Noddy (r) (8259345) **8.10** Raccoons (r) (1476074) **8.35** Get Your Own Back (r) (T) (5533180) **9.05** Spiderman (r) (7987906) **9.35** Glad Rags (r) (6035635) **10.05** Smurfs' Adventures (r) (5918513) **10.25** Oakie Dokie (4298242) **10.35** *Spider* (2083548) **10.45** Teletubbies (r) (283074) **11.15** Awash with Colour (280987)

11.45 BF's Daughter (1948) Romantic drama with Barbara Stanwyck, Van Heflin and Charles Coburn. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (10613161)

1.30pm Tricks of the Trade (88783428) **1.40** Blockbusters (98704838) **2.05** The Natural World Classics (8725180) **3.00** News (T) (2370161) **3.05** Modern Times (4415180) **3.55** News (T) (7905529)

4.00 The Long Duel (1967) Period saga with Trevor Howard, Yul Brynner and Charlotte Rampling. Directed by Ken Annakin (65622819)

5.50 Turning Points Dame Barbara Cartland sparked a profitable industry (r) (730451)

6.00 Heartbreak High (T) (167890)

6.45 Gower's Cricket Monthly Derek Underwood reminisces with Jonathan Agnew about his part in the 1968 victory over Australia (399722)

7.30 Home Ground The trade in British dinosaur fossils (T) (884)

8.00 Thicker Than Blood (1994) Drama based on fact with Peter Strauss and Rachel Ticotin. A father's courtroom battle to gain custody of his son. Directed by Michael Dinner (T) (7354)

Keith Wainwright (9.30pm)

9.30 Hungerford: Ten Years On A visit to Hungerford, ten years *after the peace of the town was shattered* by a crazed gunman. Trevor Wainwright, his mother Keith and Tony Hill, whose daughter was the youngest to be killed, are among those who reveal how they have coped with tragedy (T) (8810267)

10.20 Building Sights The Humber Bridge (103277)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (588797)

11.15 The Artist Formerly Known as Captain Beefheart John Peel profiles the idiosyncratic performer (478451)

12.10am Some Yo Yo Stuff (4013759)

12.20 Animated 2 (5995372)

12.30 Learning Zone: The Spiral of Silence **1.00** The Information Society **1.30** This Little Flower Went to Market **2.00** Music Maestro Collections **4.00** The French Experience

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7510635)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (r) (T) (5131529)

9.55 Judge Judy (T) (3929155)

10.20 News (T) (6887703)

10.25 Regional News (T) (6886074)

10.30 Tell Me No Lies (1991) with Steven Weber, Katherine Helmond and Robert Gorman. A grieving widower learns that he has no rights over his young stepson. Directed by Sandor Stern (51853277)

12.20pm *Regional News* (T) (4407277)

12.30 News (T) and weather (1988364)

12.55 Shortland Street (1890155) **1.25** Home and Away (14901616) **1.50** Liz Earle's *Lifestyle*. Paloma Picasso reveals the contents of her travel kit and Hazel Courteney discusses how to prevent mosquito bites (T) (98608600) **2.20** Murder, She Wrote (8633155)

3.20 News (T) (2387451)

3.25 Regional News (T) (2386722)

3.30 The Riddlers (r) (3166285) **3.40** Ozzie the Owl (6319155) **3.50** *Zot the Dog* (6411567) **4.00** Snug and Cozi New series (2989567) **4.10** The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (r) (T) (2978451) **4.20** Name That Toon! New series (T) (6981695) **4.45** The Scoop (T) (3595684)

5.10 Highway to Heaven (2/2) (2426548)

5.40 News (T) and weather (672161)

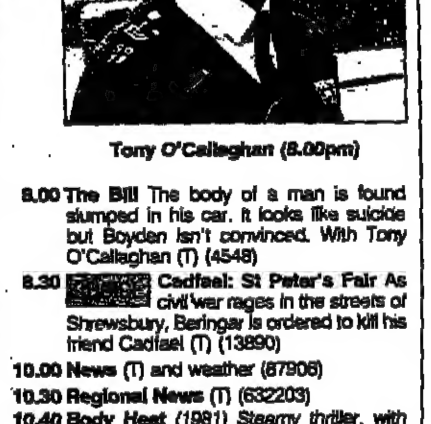
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (298118)

6.25 HTV Weather (343267)

6.25 The West Tonight (T) (518155)

7.00 Emmerdale Rachel has some friendly advice for Kathy (T) (5800)

7.30 People and Pets The responsibilities involved in keeping birds as pets (838)



Tony O'Callaghan (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill The body of a man is found slumped in his car. It looks like suicide but Boyden isn't convinced. With Tony O'Callaghan (T) (4548)

8.30 Cadfael: St Peter's Fair As civil war rages in the streets of Shrewsbury, Beringar is ordered to kill his friend Cadfael (T) (13890)

10.00 News (T) and weather (87906)

10.30 Regional News (T) (632203)

10.40 Body Heat (1981) *Steamy thriller*, with William Hurt and Kathleen Turner. A gullible lawyer gets involved with a social-climbing *femme fatale* who persuades him to bump off her husband. Directed by Lawrence Kasdan (T) (52991203)

12.50am Planet Mirth Comic sketches with a sci-fi theme (5902662)

1.20 Late and Loud (7851594)

2.20 The Chart Show (3075662)

3.15 Football Extra (8789914)

4.10 Jones and Jury (23706952)

4.35 The Time, the Place (70173117)

5.00 Heirloom (35198)

5.30 News (28223)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: City Beneath the Sea (51853277)

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (1890155)

2.20-3.20 Hart to Hart (8633155)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2426548)

6.25-7.00 Central News (518155)

7.30-8.00 *Heart of the Country* (838)

12.50am *Film: Cookie* (991681)

2.30 The Paul Ross Show (53827)

4.00 Sound Bites (23725575)

4.05 Central Jobfinder '97 (2553252)

5.20 Asian Eye (6970865)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

10.30 Film: City Beneath the Sea (51853277)

12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (4407277)

12.55 Home and Away (8500426)

1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (10480600)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2426548)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (21838)

7.30-8.00 Westcountry *Dynasties* (838)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

10.30am Cartoon Time (2071703)

10.40 David the Gnome (3588722)

11.05 Cartoon Time (4457722)

11.25 BraveStarr (4360242)

11.50 *Dinosaurs* (9782548)

2.20pm-3.20 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (8633155)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2426545)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (154)

6.30-7.00 Great Places of the South (426)

7.30-8.00 *Meridian Focus* (838)

5.00am Freescreen (35198)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

10.30am Cartoon Time (2071703)

10.40 David the Gnome (3588722)

11.05 Cartoon Time (4457722)

11.25 BraveStarr (4360242)

11.50 Dinosaurs (9782548)

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (1890155)

2.20-3.20 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (8633155)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2426548)

6.23 Anglia Weather (264513)

6.25-7.00 Anglia News (518155)

7.30-8.00 Heirloom (838)

S4C

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (53109) **7.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (92274432) **9.05 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (7972074) **9.35 The Secret World of Alex Mack** (6020703) **10.05 Sister, Sister** (7999426) **10.35 The Crystal Maze** (3988722) **11.35 The Bigger Breakfast** (9764906) **12.05pm California Dreams** (7139451) **12.30 *Ricki Lake*** (58631) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (66825074) **1.15 Pingu** (66820529) **1.30 The Living Sea** (24612) **2.00 Racing from York** (1567) **4.00 Bewitched** (567) **4.30 The Parish** (451) **5.00 Home Improvement** (6906) **5.30 Countdown** (703) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (549154) **6.05 Heno** (193744) **6.35 Hollol Bananas** (343074) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (750635) **7.25 Y Glas** (702432) **8.00 Y Clwb Rygbi** (5890) **8.30 Newyddion** (8797) **9.00 Rasus** (6068) **10.00 Brookside** (990838) **10.35 Frasier** (585819) **11.05 NYPD Blue** (263682) **12.00am Northern Exposure** (40020)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (53109)

7.00 The Bigger Breakfast with **9.05** Saved by the Bell (r) (T) **9.35** Alex Mack **10.05** Sister Sister (r) **10.35** The Crystal Maze (r) (T) **11.35** The Bigger Breakfast (49159695)

12.05pm California Dreams Tony proposes to Sam (r) (7133451)

12.30 Light Lunch (r) (51432)

1.30 The Living Sea *The marine life which* inhabits the artificial reefs made up of sunken Japanese warships in the Pacific *Ocean* (r) (T) (24612)

2.00 Racing from York: Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the **2.05, 2.35, 3.10** and **3.45** races (1567)

4.00 Bewitched (r) (T) (567) **4.30** Countdown (T) (8583211) **4.55** Ricki Lake Marrying for money (r) (T) (6571884) **5.30** Pet *Rescue* (r) (T) (703)

6.00 Space Cadets with Greg Proops and Craig Charles (616)

6.30 Roseanne: The Memory Game Dan *almost destroys his marriage* (r) (T) (628)

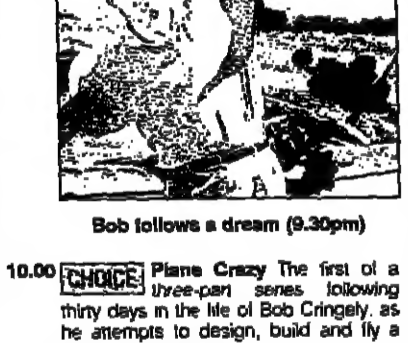
7.00 News and weather (185616)

7.50 Girls, Girls, Girls J'anina is planning a night out (271838)

8.00 Tool Stories Craig *Masson* and Andrew McMinn finish their guest room: a disabled woman decorates to a Moorish design. George Herbert helps to knock through a wall. Last *in series* (T) (5890)

8.30 Brookside The net closes in on Mick and Elaine. Will troubled newlyweds, Christian and *Rachel go ahead with the planned* blessing of their marriage? (T) (8797)

9.00 Island of Dreams (1/3) Following the fortunes of four British women who traded *British careers and homes* for the Greek charms of the island of Zakynthos. Tonight we meet Suzy and Dia, who *reveal the tension of sharing a home with* their partners' parents (r) (T) (6068)



Bob follows a dream (9.30pm)

10.00 CHOICE **Plane Crazy** The first of a *three-part* series following thirty days in the life of Bob Cringely, as he attempts to design, build and fly a *plane* (T) (7540203)

11.05 Vic Reeves' Big Night Out (r) (422277)

11.35 Gas Comedy introduced by Lee Mack (7/8) (485762)

12.10am Nightwatch Phone-in presented by *Pat Kane* (9460643)

1.10 Nothing But the Truth An unedited, extended repeat of last year's debate about assisted euthanasia. Witnesses *include Dr Philip Nitschke* and Professor Stephen Hawking (43151575)

3.40 Step Lively, Jeeves! (1937, b/w) With *Arthur Treacher as P G Wodehouse's* legendary gentleman's gentleman. Directed by Eugene Ford (4926827)

4.55 Modern American Poets The works of *Frank O'Hara* (r) (T) (70175575)

5.25 Film and Video Showcase (5485092)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. *Viewers with a* **Videocrypt** *decoder will* be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are *picture*: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (7433884)

7.30 WideWorld The dilemmas surrounding the decision-making process in the NHS (6/10) (6222074)

8.00 Havakazoo (2555345) **8.00** Wishbone (9694548) **9.00** Wind in the Willows (2572068) **9.30** Stickin' Around (3191447)

10.00 Exclusive (r) (9799161)

10.30 Hot Property (r) (3667180)

11.00 Leeza (2894161)

11.50 Double Espresso (33414890)

12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (2658432)

12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (5866105)

1.00 5 News Update (22304451) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (1512987) **2.00** 5's Company Live entertainment show (3856242)

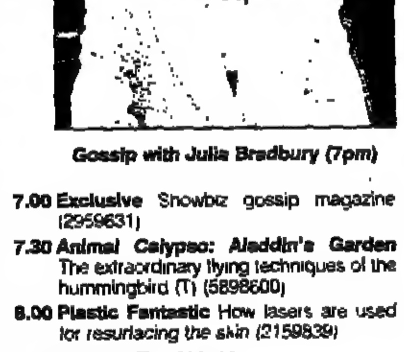
3.30 *The Purple People Eater* (1988) A fantasy adventure with Ned Beatty, Shelley Winters and Neil Patrick Harris. *Directed by Linda Shayne* (8706123)

5.20 *5's Company: Late Extra* (60093971)

5.30 100 Per Cent (5984451)

6.00 Move on Up Fast-moving game show (5981364)

6.30 Family Affairs Duncan surveys the *damage to his flat* (T) (5972616)



Gossip with Julia Bradbury (7pm)

7.00 Exclusive Showbiz gossip magazine (2959631)

7.30 *Animal Calypso: Aladdin's Garden* The extraordinary flying techniques of the hummingbird (T) (5898600)

8.00 Plastic Fantastic How lasers are used *for resurfacing the skin* (2159839)

8.30 5 News (T) (7909135)

9.00 Moment of Truth: Cult Rescue (1994) starring Joan Van Ark. A drama about a *depressed woman whose treatment by* her psychiatrist leads her family to believe that she is being brainwashed. Directed by Chuck Bowman (38888123)

10.50 Not the Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (5131432)

11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H (8953277)

12.35am Live and Dangerous Includes *IndyCar action at* **1.45** (51571730)

3.45 Live and Dangerous: Futbol Americas Latin American football (7244285)

4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series starring *Karl Malden* (T) (8524846)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6195049)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on *Saturday***

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (481987) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (27242) **10.00** Another World (82548) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (89884) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (45432) **1.00pm** Geraldo (54180) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (51180) **3.00** Jenny Jones (81906) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (77513) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (7277) **6.00** Real TV (3587) **6.30** Married — with Children (4819) **7.00** The Simpsons (9906) **7.30** M*A*S*H (3703) **8.00** Speed! (1426) **8.30** Coppers (6161) **9.00** World's Most Incredible Animal Rescues (80529) **10.00** The Extraordinary (83818) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (83277) **12.00** Late Show with Letterman (79556) **1.00am** Hit Mix (9207339)

SKY 2

7.00pm Superboy (2016267) **7.30** Superboy (5878884) **8.00** Renegade (8288155) **9.00** Police Rescue (8371819) **10.00** The New Untouchables (8374906) **11.00** In the Heat of the Night (8302345) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (8131778)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Martha and Ethel (1995) (21258) **8.00 Breaking Away** (1979) (42432) **10.00 Asterix Conquers America** (1994) (58557) **11.30 The Long Summer of George Adams** (1982) (18635) **1.30pm Heart of a Champion** (1985) (54068) **3.30 Breaking Away** (1979) (79384) **5.30 Martha and Ethel** (1995) (74819) **7.00 Hercules and the Amazon Women** (1994) (72161) **9.00 Terminal Velocity** (1994) (28687744) **10.45 Special Feature** (627529) **11.15 Love in the Strangest Way** (1993) (885345) **1.05am Girls in Prison** (1994) (8503843) **2.30 Trial by Jury** (1994) (474846) **4.15 Hercules and the Amazon Women** (1994) (424692)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Treasure Island (1974) (68890) **7.30 Shipyard Sally** (1939) (5385068) **8.50 Ramona** (1936) (23541567) **10.25 Joan of Paris** (1942) (46799567) **12.00 Never Give Up: The Jimmy V Story** (1996) (343890) **1.40pm The Leopard Man** (1943) (8954093) **2.50 The Ghost Ship** (1943) (2514161) **4.00 The Pebble and the Penguin** (1995) (3451) **6.00 Apollo 11** (1996) (32831) **7.30 Special Feature** (3513) **8.00 The American President** (1995) (97819) **10.00 Crosscut** (1996) (808109) **11.40 The Road to Wellville** (1994) (201432) **1.40am She Stood Alone: The Tailhook Scandal** (1995) (782556) **3.15 Call Me** (1987) (899391) **4.50 The New Adventures of Little Toot** (1993) (5214778)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Country Girl (1954) (9972987) **8.00 The Deep** (1977) (8977432) **10.00 The Fury** (1978) (5310161) **12.00 Life Force** (1985) (8161575) **1.55am The L-Shaped Room** (1963) (72108682) **4.00-5.35 Susan Slept Here** (1954) (8202339)

TNT

9.00pm Seven Faces of Dr Lao (1964) (74594277) **11.00 Spymaker: The Secret Life of Ian Fleming** (1991) (63706364) **1.20am Some Came Running** (1958) (68583846) **2.50-5.00 The Swordsman of Siena** (1962) (46183914)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (12703) **7.30** Rebel Sports (61659) **8.30** Racing News (32089) **9.00** Sports Centre (23345) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (69635) **10.00** Australian Rules Football (78971) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (43109) **12.30pm** Luton Town v Southend United (22780) **2.00** Golf: LPGA Friendly's Classic (22286) **3.00** High 5 (8971) **3.30** Sports Unlimited (9529) **4.00** Wild Spirits (15797) **5.00** Wrestling (5451) **6.00** Sports Centre (5513) **6.30** Tartan Extra (2093) **7.00** Pro Beach Soccer (22529) **8.00** High 5 (9800) **8.30** Tartan Extra (1835) **9.00** The Footballers' Football Show (49513) **10.00** Sports Centre (44838) **10.30** Tartan Extra (20258) **11.00** Pro Beach Soccer (21451) **12.00** Sports Centre (39074) **12.30am** The Footballers' Football Show (47843) **1.30** Tartan Extra (67310) **2.00-2.30** Sports Centre (70489)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Sports Unlimited (12689600) **1.00pm** World Motor Sport (83047906) **4.30** Super Dragsters (88718819) **5.00** Golf: Friendly's Classic (71111432) **6.00** Sports Unlimited (12865884) **7.00** Sports Centre (71112161) **7.30** World Motor Sport (46187703) **11.00-11.30** Super Dragsters (32940380)

EUROSPORT

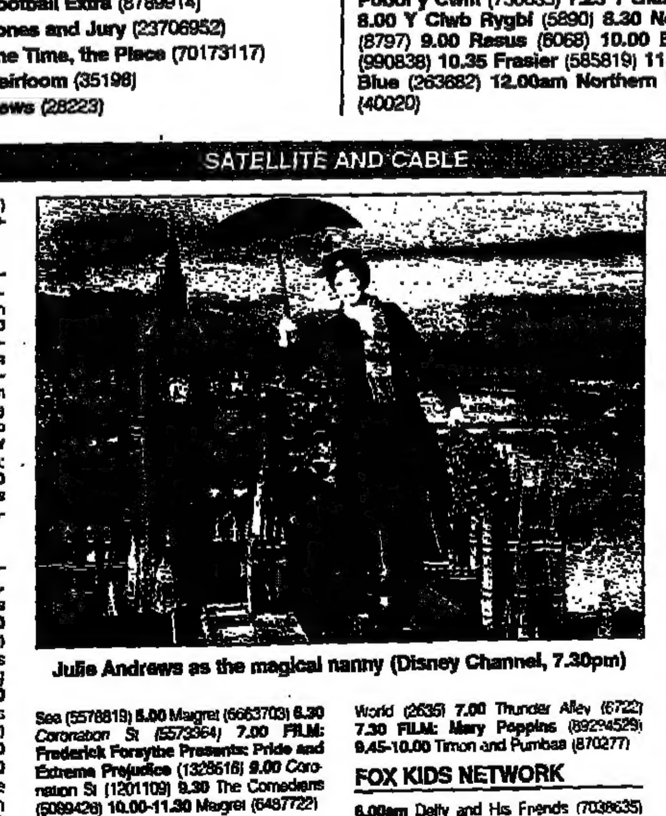
7.30am Swimming: European Championships (26908) **8.00** Swimming: European Championships — Live (328203) **11.00** Eurogoals (39426) **12.00** Swimming: European Championships (71426) **1.00pm** Swimming: European Championships — Live (2780906) **4.30** Strongest Man in Europe (26884) **5.30** Tractor Pulling (17600) **6.30** British Touring Car Championship (70635) **7.30** Football: AC Milan v Juventus — Live (35744) **9.30** Swimming: European Championships (72155) **10.00** World Cup Legends (43068) **11.00** Miss Fitness USA (23819) **12.00-12.30am** Swimming: European Championships (96652)

UK GOLD

7.00am Rentaghost (2535277) **7.35** Neighbours (8938535) **8.00** Crossroads (3106068) **8.25** EastEnders (7149819) **9.00** The Bill (3120155) **9.30** Shelley (5544548) **10.00** Tallystack (7986684) **10.30** Sullivans (3222567) **11.00** Ironside (1601364) **12.05pm** Crossroads (85659616) **12.30** Neighbours (5548364) **1.00** EastEnders (6642567) **1.35** Plaza Patrol (81128722) **2.05** A Little Bit of Dawson (45888971) **2.20** Take a Letter, Mister Jones (6844249) **2.50** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (5315258) **3.30** The Bill (3699684) **4.00** Hold the Dream (4933364) **5.00** Casualty (19178567) **6.05** EastEnders (3186136) **6.40** Brush Strokes (5779906) **7.20** Dr Who (5915884) **7.50** George and Mildred (6355451) **8.20** Hi-De-Hi (4832093) **9.00** The Bill (4839548) **9.30** Casualty (33013093) **10.35** Morecambe and Wise (9168451) **11.30** Magnificent Evans (9147906) **12.05am** FILM: Just My Luck (52710335) **1.30** Ken Dodd's World of Laughter (2121001) **2.20** Shopping (88602038)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (4817628) **7.00** Coronation St (1331180) **7.30** Families (1327987) **8.00** Surprise! Surprise! (6581155) **9.00** Richard and Judy Exclusives (7280819) **9.30** Doctor at Sea (5181074) **10.00** Gentle Touch (1243971) **11.00** Love for Lydia (1338635) **12.00** Coronation St (7197156) **12.30am** Families (5185890) **1.00** Brass (1330451) **1.30** Classic Interiors (5164181) **2.00** Surprise! Surprise! (3077906) **3.00** Gentle Touch (1268890) **4.00** Richard and Judy Exclusive (5572835) **4.30** Doctor at Sea (5578819) **5.00** Maigret (6663703) **6.30** Coronation St (5573364) **7.00 FILM: Frederick Forsythe Presents: Pride and Extreme Prejudice** (1328516) **9.00** Coronation St (1201109) **9.30** The Comedians (5089426) **10.00-11.30** Maigret (6487722)



Julie Andrews as the magical nanny (Disney Channel, 7.30pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo's Circus (92548) **6.30** Ralph S Mouse (37529) **7.30** Little Mermaid (7405621) **7.55** Timon and Pumbaa (9806155) **8.10** Goof Troop (6233221) **9.00** Tale Spin (9307426) **9.25** Aladdin's Bazaar (6196068) **10.15** Quack Pack (3846513) **11.00** Boy Meets World (9574906) **11.25** Wonder Years (6438838) **11.50** Timon and Pumbaa (9350616) **12.05pm** Bonkers (3512529) **12.30** Paddington Bear (52446155) **12.35** Big Garage (41790345) **12.50** Sing Me a Story (1714258) **1.15** Madison (85562797) **1.40** Wonderland (76296180) **2.05** Small Stones (46330884) **2.10** Lamb Chop (15665797) **2.40** Care Bears (8600277) **3.00** Little Mermaid (7870659) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (6168068) **3.40** Tale Spin Double Tum (2783695) **4.30** Chooseday (3190) **5.00** Aladdin (7889432) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (1799529) **5.35** Mighty Ducks (207345) **6.00** Flash Forward (5155) **6.30** Boy Meets World (2635) **7.00** Thunder Alley (6722) **7.30 FILM: Mary Poppins** (89294529) **9.45-10.00** Timon and Pumbaa (870277)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Dolly and His Friends (7038635) **6.30** Pinocchio (7482780) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (8220797) **7.30** Hero Turtles (8305432) **8.00** Casper (5432613) **8.30** Power Rangers Zeo (6882154) **9.00** Masked Rider (7131646) **9.30** Beetleborgs (5191242) **10.00** Spiderman (6301616) **11.00** X Men (2365616) **11.30** Phantom 2040 (2268345) **12.00** The Tick (2282190) **12.30pm** Life with Louie (5275258) **1.00** Casper (6225068) **1.30** Eek! (5274529) **2.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (9531001) **2.30** Hero Turtles (5960819) **3.00** Casper (6410628) **3.30** Power Rangers Zeo (5965364) **4.00** Masked Rider (5871971) **4.30** Beetleborgs (5877155) **5.00** Spiderman (3466708) **6.00** X Men (5961548) **6.30-7.00** Goosebumps (5872600)

TCC

6.00am Iznogoud (98722) **6.30** Dangermouse (13513) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (44971) **7.30** Where's Wally? (35906) **8.00** Batman (79548) **8.30** Art Attack (69513) **8.30** Earthworm Jim (98161) **10.00** Gravedale High (14203) **10.30** Flash Gordon (85155) **11.00** Creepy Crawlers (33161) **11.30** Cadillacs and Dinosaurs (34890) **12.00** Gravedale High (72635) **12.30pm** Stunt Dawgs (27267) **1.00** Batman (43242) **1.30** Dangermouse (77708) **2.00** Creepy Crawlers (8180) **2.30** Flash Gordon (2600) **3.00** Sonic (4987) **3.30** Earthworm Jim (6345) **4.00** Dennis the Menace (7180) **4.30-5.00** Art Attack (3364)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Dr Seuss (67838) **6.30** Wil Cwac Cwac etc (89987) **7.00** Babar (10345) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (22180) **8.00** Jumanji (31364) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (30635) **9.00** Rugrats (21987) **9.30** Rugrats (67277) **10.00** Doug (23447) **10.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (47971) **11.00** Rocko (95987) **11.30** Ren and Stimpy (95616) **12.00** Pete and Pete (34451) **12.30pm** Clarissa (61093) **1.00** Alex Mack (19616) **1.30** Round the Twist (60364) **2.00** Bailey Kipper's Point of View (7726) **2.30** Littlest Pet Shop (2426) **3.00** Stickin' Around (6513) **3.30** Bruno the Kid (7971) **4.00** Hey Arnold! (9905) **4.30** Rugrats (8890) **5.00** Sister Sister (1252) **5.30** Sister Sister (6242) **6.00** Moesha (3155) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (6285)

TROUBLE

12.00 Byker Grove (3208987) **12.30pm** Ready or Not (5533432) **1.00** Madison (1309819) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (5532703) **2.00** Swan's Crossing (9991889) **2.30** Blast (3775635) **3.00** Byker Grove (1608744) **3.30** Hangtime (3770180) **4.00** California Dreams (3786987) **4.30** Saved by the Bell (3682971) **5.00** Sweet Valley High (2153839) **5.30** Ready or Not (3779451) **6.00** Hangtime (3776364) **6.30** Madison (3787616) **7.00** Saved by the Bell (6553895) **7.30-8.00** California Dreams (3683600)

BRAVO

8.00pm Twilight Zone (1979113) **8.30** Twilight Zone (3574600) **9.00** LA Heat (9908180) **10.00** Tour of Duty (9918567) **11.00 FILM: The Supernaturals** (8420432) **1.00am** LA Heat (1427543) **2.00** Tour of Duty (7708049) **3.00 FILM: Firepower** (5198204) **5.00** Twilight Zone (6859136) **5.30** Twilight Zone (3734488)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Roseanne (4722) **7.30** Family Ties (6819) **8.00** Ellen (7242) **8.30** Wings (9277) **9.00** Cheers (30221) **9.30** Taxi (58629) **10.00** Roseanne (35180) **10.30** It's Garry Shandling's Show (48600) **11.00** Club Class (14068) **11.30** The A-List (93451) **12.00** Soap (39056) **12.30am** I Love Lucy (60759) **1.00** Cheers (26575) **1.30** Taxi (65952) **2.00** Ellen (32169) **2.30** Club Class (80846) **3.00** Roseanne (46339) **3.30-4.00** Wings (71198)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Space Precinct (5898884) **9.00 FILM: Damien: Omen II** (5891971) **11.00 FILM: Black Carrion** (2153068) **12.30am** Ray Bradbury Theatre (3052865) **1.00** Twilight Zone (5453407) **1.30** One Step Beyond (8304730) **2.00** Friday the 13th (1496681) **3.30-4.00** Dark Shadows (6904488)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Simply Painting (3128797) **9.30** Garden Show (5535890) **10.00** Garden Club (9786646) **10.30** Antiques Trail (3220109) **11.00** Homemaker (4844426) **11.30** Graham Kerr (4845155) **12.00** Julia Child (3204161) **12.30pm** Hometime (5546906) **1.00** This Old House (1306093) **1.30** New Yankee Workshop (5545277) **2.00** The House (4753613) **2.30** Angling Adventure (3788109) **3.00** Hooked on Fishing (1703398) **3.30** Go Fishing (3687426)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Battle of Britain (2762161) **4.30** Fire (3768345) **5.00** Next Step (5002105) **5.30** Jurassica (3686797) **6.00** Wild Guide (3789838) **6.30** Wildfilm (3763890) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (6658249) **7.30** Napoleon Invades Russia (3769074) **8.00** Discover Magazine (9991890) **9.00** Great Egyptians (9815426) **10.00** Bermuda Triangle (9818513) **11.00** Porsche Story (1219242) **12.00** Secret Weapons (3739933) **12.30am** Fire (9077049) **1.00** Napoleon Invades Russia (1165933) **1.30** Next Step (8317914)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Vimy: Birth of a Nation (9358635) **5.00** The Life and Times of Jesus (4240616) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (7621109) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Bob Hope (5985364)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour.
5.05pm Cross Wits (2673093) **5.50** Family Fortunes (215364) **6.30** Catchphrase (695074) **7.05** Winner Takes All (484600) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (727432) **8.20** All Clued Up (610838) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (459548) **9.35** Sale of the Century (344277) **10.10** Treasure Hunt (818635) **11.20** Studs (301345) **12.00** Through the Keyhole (47310) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (83469) **1.30** Sweet Justice (20894) **2.30** African Skies (11730) **3.00** My Two Dads (77223) **3.30** Big Brother Jake (35310) **4.00** Fall Guy (58407) **5.00** Shopping (51933)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (98703277) **9.05** A Woman Called Smith (9173161) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (1893513) **10.05** Jerry Springer (8745258) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (4849161) **11.50** Brookside (9826616) **12.25pm** Take a Letter (78889616) **12.55** Tempest (8084180) **1.40** Rolonda (8204513) **2.30** The Heat Is On (2802364) **3.00** Could It Be a Miracle? (3218722) **3.45** Date with Fate (12139797) **4.05** Jerry Springer (6359109) **5.05** Lingo (46070161) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2806180) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (8126797) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (7634068) **7.05** Hearts Alive (3394838) **7.35** Could It Be a Miracle? (8065044) **8.10** Rolonda (3962600) **9.00 FILM: Connections** (9974345) **11.00-12.00** Sex Life Down Under (1743600)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Presents **8.00** Rashai **8.25** Ek Nazar **8.30** India Business Report **9.00** Tamil Serial: Revaathi **9.30** Endrum Cleman **10.00** Parvarian **10.30** Awaaz Nayi Andaz Wohi **11.00** Khoobsurat **11.30** Mr Yogi **12.00** Sailaab **12.30pm** Rashai **1.00 FILM: Kala Pani** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.05** Mr Mintoo **4.35** Mast Mast Hai Zindagi **5.00** Zone Time **5.25** Naya A-Z **6.00** Bhangra Bonanza **6.25** Ek Nazar **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.35** Daraar **9.05** Ek Pe Ikka **9.30** Tara **10.15** Ghutan Azma **11.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **11.20-12.00** Hi Zindagi Bye Zindagi

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

CRICKET 40-41
Australia spoilt for choice in run up to Oval Test match

SPORT

SWIMMING 41
Popov refuses to tread water on return to action

McGeechan spurns chance to become England coach

McGeechan: new plans

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

IAN McGEECHAN yesterday terminated the speculation surrounding the position of coach to the England rugby union team. McGeechan, the Scot who masterminded the series win by the British Isles in South Africa in June and July, withdrew his candidature and is likely now to try to combine his work at Northampton with a role as consultant to the Scottish Rugby Union.

Though in some ways this clears the air, in others it leaves an unhealthy miasma — through no fault of McGeechan's — because of the doubts cast upon the credentials of the present coach, Jack Rowell, and his assistants, Mike Slemen and Les Cusworth. However hard the Rugby Football Union's national playing committee may have searched for an alternative, the truth is that there is none to Rowell at present and even that may be denied England if Rowell adheres to a commitment previously given to his business associates.

McGeechan has been linked with a possible move to England since his association with Fran Cotton in South Africa with the Lions. Cotton, who managed that touring party, has since moved into a position with the RFU which gives him a dominant role over playing policy, while members of the national playing committee, chaired by Bill Beaumont, believe that a full-time England coach is now necessary.

"It has to be a full-time job if you are realistic about wanting to win the World Cup in 1999," one member of the committee said this week. That is the problem with Rowell, whose varied business interests form an important part of his life; given the choice of business or rugby, Rowell will always choose the former even though he wants to finish the job he has started by taking the present England squad through to 1999.

It must be considered a fault of the RFU's coaching structure that so few viable alternatives to Rowell present themselves. Most of the best young coaches in England are contracted to clubs who, like Northampton with McGeechan, would require compensation before letting a prized asset go. Indeed the amount of compensation — said to be around £500,000 — that Northampton required must have been a big factor in McGeechan withdrawing from a role he would have enjoyed.

But over the years England A coaches have come and gone, few of them having the chance to put down a marker for the senior post. When Rowell succeeded Geoff Cooke as England manager in 1994 it was on the strength of his outstanding record at Bath; Dick Best, then England coach, was summarily dismissed a few months later though, ironically, he remains one of the few coaches qualified for the England job who is not under contract, Harlequins having pulled the rug from under him last season.

Rowell's record is a worthy one: a grand slam, a championship, a triple crown, a shared series in South Africa and a World Cup semi-final place. If he has been criticised over selection, few countries escape the same stricture and certainly not England before Rowell. If he has sometimes gone for what appears the "safe" option, that reflects merely a national tendency.

But the events of the past few months, as the RFU have sounded out various coaches including Graham Henry, who prepared the Auckland Blues team which has won the Super 12 for the past two years, have created a sour feeling among the England management team. They believe that playing philosophies they have adopted, development strategies they have tried to put in place, their teams' overall record have counted for nothing.

The national playing committee has looked at others — Richard Hill, of Gloucester, Clive Woodward and Andy Robinson, from Bath, Rob Smith, from Wasps — but none has the overall credentials needed.

Couples and Janzen complete team

Kite draws on reserves of experience

From John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent, in Mamaroneck, New York

TOM KITE, the United States team captain in the forthcoming Ryder Cup, yesterday went for experience in major championships and Ryder Cups when he selected Fred Couples and Lee Janzen to complete his team to play Europe in Spain next month.

Up to that point, the ten men who had already qualified looked raw in terms of their experience of the special pressure of a Ryder Cup. From ten appearances in this biannual match, Nick Faldo had more experience than the ten Americans combined. Couples and Janzen redress his obvious imbalance. Couples has played in the past four Ryder Cup teams and Janzen was a member of the victorious 1993 team at The Belfry. In all, the Americans have a total of 13 appearances in the Ryder Cup.

Kite's team looks to be one of the strongest selected by the United States in recent years. Seven of its members finished in the top ten when the US PGA Championship concluded on Sunday. It is a blend of youth and experience. Tiger Woods, 21, Justin Leonard 25, Jim Furyk 27, and Scott Hoch, 41, are making their first appearance in the competition. Tom Lehman, Phil Mickelson, Brad Faxon and Jeff Maggert competed in the 1995 team that was defeated by Europe at Oak Hill.

Kite: decisions

Davis Love III has played in the past two matches and Mark O'Meara appeared in 1985, 1989 and 1991. Couples, the 1992 Masters champion and Janzen, the 1993 US Open champion, will bring that hard edge of competitive experience to the team that contains three of the year's major championship winners — Woods, Leonard and Love.

Captains are supposed to have difficulty when selecting their teams and Kite was no exception. He had disturbed nights as he fretted about his thoughts and woke up Christy, his wife, with his habit of shouting names in his sleep.

He sought out the opinions of all those who had already qualified and those who were likely to qualify. Finally, he, Christy and Dennis Satyshur, the head professional at Caves Valley golf club near Baltimore, who is Kite's assistant, went out to dinner on Sunday night and ran over their thoughts one last time.

By then, Kite had had some help from the players. "I was looking for players to make statements, to tell me with shots that they wanted to make the team," he said. Two of the men who had hitherto been on the fringes had just done that — Love by winning the US PGA, Maggert by finishing fourth and equalling the course record in the last round as he did not. Kite was impressed by both.

That left a baker's dozen names, including Kite's, for him to consider. The names included major championship winners such as Steve Jones, the 1996 US Open champion, Tom Watson, both a past Ryder Cup captain and player, Mark Brooks, the 1996 US PGA champion, Janzen and Couples, Corey Pavin, the 1995 US Open champion, Payne Stewart, the 1989 US PGA champion, and Hale Irwin, who currently competes on the senior tour in the United States. Other names that Kite considered included Tommy Tolles, David Duval and Paul Stankowski.

Six of the men that Kite consulted wanted him to pick himself. All year he has maintained that it was only opinion and not fact, but there could not be a playing captain. He changed his mind when he realised that he was not going to be able to qualify for his own team.

Couples is one of those gifted players with an approach to life that is as relaxed as his swing. Though he has had a difficult year during which he has been beset by problems concerning his father's health and within his own private life, he assured Kite that he was anxious to compete in the Ryder Cup.

"Freddie has proven throughout the years that he is one of our very best," Kite said. "When Freddie wants to play, he's the best. My thoughts were that if you've got one of the best players in the game and he wants to be on your team, then it makes sense to have him there."

For Janzen, being selected to compete at Valderrama is some consolation for narrowly missing out in 1995. He finished eleventh in the points list that year and was ignored by Lanny Wadkins, who went for Couples and Curtis Strange as his two selections. Janzen then won a tournament the following week.

"The pluses for Lee was that he was a US Open champion," Kite said. "He has had some Ryder Cup experience and he had a good strong finish yesterday playing in front of the captain. He has been a little inconsistent lately but he did have some strong finishes in the past few weeks."

This is a very strong looking team, Severiano Ballesteros, captain of the Europe team, will announce his players at the BMW International Open in Munich on August 31. On paper, it will not match Kite's team, but that does not mean to say that it cannot win the 1997 Ryder Cup.

Couples is keen to put his personal problems behind him in the Ryder Cup

Janzen booked his place in the US PGA Championship

Todd's line lands Fish for Bolton

By David Maddock

BOLTON Wanderers yesterday completed one of the more remarkable transfers of the new season when they landed a fish previously thought too big for the English football pond. The Lancashire club signed Mark Fish, the South Africa international, for £2 million, when the player had last season turned down their more glamorous neighbours, Manchester United.

The 24-year-old defender arrived at Old Trafford last season with Alex Ferguson, the United manager, suggesting that he was a centre half of rare quality. But, after only three days' training with the club, Fish slipped off to Italy and chose instead to sign for Lazio, of Rome.

He did, however, endure an uncomfortable time with the Italian side and when Bolton contacted Lazio last week the defender pushed for the move to the extent that yesterday he was granted a transfer.

"The deal is 99 per cent complete, we are just waiting for Lazio to send through the player's international clearance," Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said.

"Lazio did not want to let him go and I believe there were four Italian clubs also in the running to sign him, but we were persistent and in the end we managed to persuade him to join us.

"He has played at the very highest level and has just helped South Africa to qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time. Playing in Italy has also given him valuable experience and he is an ideal signing for us.

"He has brought much-needed competition to our back line," Todd added.

Fish was the subject of another Manchester United inquiry during the summer but on that occasion Lazio were reluctant to allow the defender to leave despite the player's limited opportunity in Rome with the club that Paul Gascoigne once played for. It is something of a coup for Todd, as was the £450,000 signing yesterday of the former England international forward, Peter Beardsley, from Newcastle United.

Beardsley had, in fact, agreed to join Bolton several weeks ago, but the move was blocked because Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, felt that his squad lacked adequate cover given a series of pre-season injuries, including that to Alan Shearer, the England captain, and the departure to Tottenham Hotspur of Les Ferdinand, the England forward.

But Dalglish has moved in the transfer market to bring in ageing free signings in Stuart Pearce, John Barnes and now Ian Rush and it was after the striker arrived at St James' Park that Beardsley was finally given the all-clear to move.

He underwent a medical last night and should it prove clear, then he will be in the squad for the FA Carling Premiership match at Coventry City on Saturday, as will Fish.

"We agreed terms some time ago and Peter will be in for training in the morning," Todd said last night. "It is a great buy for us, he has a wealth of experience and is still a player of great quality."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1176

ACROSS
1 Chrysalis (4)
3 Precise (8)
8 Competent (7)
10 Tear into tiny bits (5)
11 With desperate urgency (3,4,4)
13 Long pace (6)
15 Insight: summary (6)
17 Over-sensitive (4-7)
20 1/10 furlong: set of links (5)
21 World creation month, 4004 BC (Ussher) (7)
22 Detest (8)
23 Ran away (4)

DOWN
1 Objector to fighting (8)
2 Essay: exam question set (5)
4 Verse (6)
5 Particular instance (4,2,5)
6 Refrain from (7)
7 Musical tail-piece (4)
9 Earner (for family) (11)
12 Broken apart (8)
14 Struggle of making living (3,4)
16 Formally accompany (6)
18 Dynamite inventor, endowed eg Peace prize (5)
19 Dull pain (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1175
ACROSS: 1 Bifurcated 8 Bayonet 9 Choke 10 Edna 11 Composed 13 Ad hoc 14 Dowdy 16 Lawfully 17 Grub 20 Malta 21 Willing 22 Snapdragon
DOWN: 1 Bible 2 Fly on the wall 3 Rand 4 Action 5 Escapade 6 House-warming 7 Heyday 12 Schumann 13 Aflame 15 Blow up 18 Begin 19 Slur

UNITED STATES RYDER CUP TEAM

Captain: Tom Kite

	Age	World ranking	Previous Ryder Cups	Major titles	Ryder Cup record
Fred Couples	37	12	4	1	P15 W5 H2 L7
Brad Faxon	36	16	1	0	P3 W1 L2
Jim Furyk	27	21	0	0	[illegible]
Scott Hoch	41	14	0	0	[illegible]
Lee Janzen	32	37	1	1	P2 L2
Tom Lehman	38	6	1	1	P3 W1 L2
Justin Leonard	25	11	0	1	[illegible]
Davis Love III	33	4	2	1	P3 W5 L4
Jeff Maggert	33	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	P4 W2 L2
Phil Mickelson	27	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	P3 W3
Mark O'Meara	40	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	P8 W2 H1 L5
Tiger Woods	21	1	0	[illegible]	[illegible]

JOHNNIE WALKER RYDER CUP POINTS STANDINGS

Top ten qualify automatically, European closing date August 31.

EUROPE	Points	UNITED STATES	Points
1. C Montgomerie (Scot)	864,445	1. T Woods	1,185,000
2. D Clarke (N Ire)	594,813	2. J Leonard	1,068,500
3. B Langer (Ger)	519,147	3. T Lehman	1,022,953
4. I Woosnam (Wales)	506,397	4. D Love	957,166
5. L Westwood (Eng)	468,153	5. J Furyk	947,500
6. I Garrido (Sp)	371,696	6. P Mickelson	809,288
7. P-U Johansson (Swe)	336,305	7. J Maggert	806,625
8. T Bjorn (Den)	331,679	8. M O'Meara	801,250
9. M-A Martin (Sp)	324,400	9. S Hoch	791,952
10. C Rocca (It)	317,007	10. B Faxon	727,500
11. P Harrington (Ire)	289,692	11. T Tolles	688,000
12. J-M Olazabal (Sp)	267,606	12. S Jones	579,000
13. P Broadhurst (Eng)	256,467	13. M Brooks	549,000
14. R Chapman (Eng)	242,372	14. P Stankowski	503,000
15. J Haeggman (Swe)	242,350	15. L Janzen	498,000
16. S Torrance (Scot)	240,797	16. D Duval	470,000
17. M James (Eng)	237,609	17. F Couples	458,000
18. D Gilford (Eng)	213,232	18. T Watson	433,000
19. P Mitchell (Eng)	210,794	19. T Kite	422,000
20. R Claydon (Eng)	198,415	20. M Bradley	402,000